

Talks begin on Palestinian refugees

TUNIS (Petra) — A conference of Arab countries supervising affairs of Palestinian refugees began here Monday attended by delegates from Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO). The secretary general of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Qatani, who is heading Jordan's delegation to the conference, delivered a speech paying tribute to the current anti-Israel uprising by Arab citizens in the occupied territories. He said arbitrary and repressive Israeli measures had been subject to condemnation and denunciation by world public opinion. Qatani also called for supporting the uprising. The week-long conference is discussing economic and social affairs of Palestinian refugees. Among these topics are Israel's attempts to seize Arab water resources in the occupied Arab territories, living conditions at Palestinian refugee camps as well as the future of university graduates in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Draft resolution demands Israeli pullout from Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Ignoring the prospect of a United States veto, six states proposed Monday that the Security Council again demand the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon. Their draft resolution also requested the council to deplore strongly Israel's repeated attacks against Lebanese territory and other measures against civilians. Israel would be requested to cease encroaching on Lebanese land, constructing roads and fences that violate the border and attempting to occupy or change the status of Lebanese territory, or impede the return of the effective authority of the Beirut government.

3 Syrians hanged for spying

DAMASCUS (R) — Three Syrians were hanged in a Damascus central square at dawn Monday for spying for Israel. Eyewitnesses said the three men, all civilians, were taken to the scaffold after being found guilty of spying and, according to Syrian newspapers, for having "sold themselves to the Zionist enemy for a handful of dollars." One of the executed men, 40-year-old Mohammad Salem Yahya Badr, came from Damascus. The newspapers said another, 35-year-old Fu'ad Ali Hassan was from Latakia, and 53-year-old Adnan Mustafa Mahfouz from Hama.

Tunisian premier visits Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, paying a short visit to Egypt Monday, emphasised the strong ties between the two countries despite the absence of formal diplomatic relations. "Any challenge to either Egypt or Tunisia is a challenge to both countries," Baccouche told reporters at the airport, where he met Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. Baccouche's one-hour stopover on his way to tour Arab Gulf states was the latest in a series of contacts between Egypt and Tunisia amid unconfirmed Arab press reports that formal ties would soon be restored.

Aden demands return of ex-president

BAHRAIN (AP) — South Yemen Monday demanded that North Yemen hand over former President Ali Nasser Mohammad to face execution, following his sentencing last month in absentia, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) reported. The agency, reporting from Aden, said the demand was contained in a statement issued by South Yemen's Supreme People's Council. The statement said the extradition of Nasser Mohammad and others who were "fleeing justice... would be in line with international law and norms."

EC accord with Israel in jeopardy

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Parliament is to delay considering a trade accord between Israel and the European Community (EC) partly because of opposition to the Jewish state's actions in handling Arab protests in the occupied territories, parliament sources said Monday.

200,000 forced to remain inside camps; UNRWA reports critical food situation

Gaza remains under Israeli army siege

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops barred 200,000 Palestinians from leaving their homes in Gaza Strip refugee camps for a seventh straight day Monday.

The Israeli army said seven of eight refugee camps were under curfew in the occupied Gaza Strip. The West Bank village of Safit, where troops shot and wounded two Palestinians during a demonstration last week, was also under curfew.

Israelis have killed at least 39 Palestinians and wounded 300 in anti-Israeli protests that began six weeks ago.

A combination of the curfews, a show of force and bad weather brought a relative calm to the West Bank and Gaza Strip Monday.

In incidents overnight, stone-throwers pelted two Israeli buses in the Jerusalem area, but no one was injured.

Residents of the West Bank town of Ramallah said soldiers forced them to open shops by cutting their locks overnight.

The army said its policy was to reopen stores closed in response to Palestinian strike calls.

Troops also forced stores to open on the main street in Gaza

City, but there were no customers, only large number of soldiers keeping an eye on disgruntled shopkeepers.

In Arab Jerusalem, stores were shuttered in an almost complete commercial strike. Soldiers were seen trying to force open several shops.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) says there are serious shortages of food in the eight Gaza Strip camps, where more than 200,000 Palestinian refugees have been living under curfew for periods of a week to 13 days.

Most families were down to one meal a day, with parents going hungry to feed their children, a senior UNRWA official said.

UNRWA said Sunday that Israeli troops were barring the distribution of food in some Gaza camps. But UNRWA officials said troops permitted food trucks to enter several camps Monday.

A new coalition of Israelis calling themselves "People with a Conscience" said its members would take a three-truck convoy of food to Gaza refugees Tuesday.

The army has interfered with UNRWA efforts to take emergency food supplies into the camps. In several places, bread and rice had to be thrown off U.N. trucks at random to whoever was standing around.

AP reporter Jocelyn Noveck saw troops seize baskets of food from six women outside the Bureij camp Monday and trample them as the women looked on screaming.

Israel last week started laying economic siege to camps on the assumption that Palestinians unable to work and deprived of income would pressure them to call a truce.

Israeli businessmen say the curfews and strikes are slowing production in factories that employ West Bank and Gaza Arabs.

In southern Israel, the government enlisted 10,000 high school volunteers to pick citrus, a major export which must be harvested by the end of February. The job requires 15,000 workers, half of whom come from occupied territories.

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An Israeli soldier forces open an Arab store in Jerusalem

Goulding: Israeli occupation intolerable

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — U.N. special envoy Marrack Goulding has said that 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip had produced an intolerable situation for both Palestinians and Israelis.

In an interview with Reuters on the eve of his return to New York after a week-long mission, Goulding said Sunday:

"The status quo is not stable or safe and there has got to be an effective and firm effort by the international community to negotiate a political settlement to what is a political problem."

The under-secretary-general said despair and hopelessness among Palestinians had exploded into violence.

"They really do hate the occupation," he said.

Goulding also acknowledged that he held a secret meeting with a representative of the Islamic Jihad fundamentalist guerrilla movement in Gaza last Tuesday, but declined to comment on the



Marrack Goulding

content of the talks.

Israel describes the clandestine group as the most dangerous Palestinian organization in the Gaza Strip. The meeting took place at the Gaza headquarters of the U.N. Relief and Works

Agency (UNRWA) but was not included on his printed schedule, informed sources said.

Goulding said the uprising presented a difficult and complicated challenge to what he called the high standards by which Israel governed itself.

His mission to study the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories was dogged by violent clashes, army curfews which prevented him entering several refugee camps and the refusal of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, to meet him.

But Goulding said he was encouraged that the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and the defense minister, Yitzhak Rabin, recognised the need for a political solution.

Goulding would not say what recommendations he would make to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who must re-

port to the Security Council Wednesday.

But he played down speculation that the U.N. might try to send observers to oversee the safety of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"The government of Israel has stated in very firm terms it would not accept the deployment of U.N. military personnel in the territories," he said.

Noting that the United Nations accepted Israel's responsibility for security in the area under the 4th Geneva convention on the status of territories in war, he said: "One has to be a little careful about this idea that the U.N. would simply send military personnel to the occupied territories."

Goulding said the secretary-general was very worried about Israel's blockade of Gaza refugee camps under curfew and he had intervened to try to allow

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Parliament committees discuss Palestinian uprising

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Foreign Affairs Committee and the Occupied Territories Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament held a joint meeting Monday and discussed the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, reviewed the situation in the occupied territories and deputies speaking at the session denounced Israel's brutal practices against the Palestinian protesters, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra quoted Fayez as saying that the uprising was bound to erupt sooner or later. "It demonstrates the Arab people's feelings and reaction to Israel's inhuman practices and disregard of their legitimate rights," Petra quoted the speaker as saying.

Members of the two committees spoke at the meeting and voiced their condemnation of Israel's practices against Palestinian civilians.

"The Israelis have revealed their evil and terrorist nature to the whole through their practices against our people, demolition of homes, killing of innocent people and expelling Palestinians from their homeland," Petra summed up the central theme of the deputies' speeches.

Petra said that, in view of the continuing protests and Israeli actions against the protesters, the committees decided to consider their meetings to be in constant session and to await an official government statement on the uprising. Petra said the committees also decided to issue a detailed statement later.

Kuwait to send aid

Kuwait said Monday it would send food and medicine worth \$5 million to Palestinians in the occupied territories to help them to continue anti-Israeli protests.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, as saying after the weekly cabinet meeting that the aid would be sent through the United Nations.

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Argentine rebel leader surrenders

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Rebel leader Aldo Rico surrendered to loyalist forces surrounding his stronghold in the northern town of Monte Caseros Monday, the official Argentine news agency Telam reported, quoting a general. Fifth Army Corps commander Humberto Ferrucci told Telam in the city of Bahia Blanca that "ex-Lieutenant-Colonel Rico has handed himself over to the legal forces." He said Rico laid down his arms and gave himself up to the commander of the third infantry brigade at the rebel base in Monte Caseros, 630 kilometres north of Buenos Aires. President Raul Alfonsin's government had earlier turned down a conditional surrender offer by Rico and had pledged to crush the rebellion on its own terms. Presidential press spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said. Revolts in other military bases throughout Argentina (see page 8) had also been crushed, official sources said, with the exception of the 19th infantry regiment in the northern city of Tucuman. The sources said the situation in Tucuman was not clear. Provincial officials said the town of Monte Caseros was totally controlled by loyalist tanks, armoured personnel carriers and infantry.

Peres renews bid for early elections

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, called for a spring election Monday, saying Israel's government was too divided to make peace with the Arabs or curb the anti-occupation protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But his rival, the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, insisted Israel must first restore "order" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir also called on the United States and Egypt to help revive talks on "autonomy" for the occupied territories as outlined in the 1979 Camp David accords.

Peres, whose party shares power in an uneasy coalition government with Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, failed to muster a majority to dissolve the Knesset (parliament) on the issue of a peace conference last year.

Elections are scheduled for November but Peres, the Labour Party leader, said they could take

place within three months if endorsed by parliament.

Asked how he intended to break the cabinet deadlock, Peres told reporters in northern Israel: "Maybe we cannot, so the people will have to decide and maybe the earlier the better."

He said he would raise the possibility of early elections with the Labour Party central committee.

Shamir immediately declared his opposition to the idea, saying: "At this time when we are under attack, it would not be good for the people of Israel to enter into an elections war. It will weaken our position in the eyes of the Arabs."

Peres says an international conference is the only way to bring about direct Arab-Israeli talks, but Shamir says it would only try to force Israel into giving up the occupied territories.

It was the first time Peres had

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Syrian minister says more contacts needed to heal rift with Iraq

By Hamadeh Fara'neh
Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS — Syria appreciates the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to settle differences between Syria and Iraq but the Damascus-Baghdad rift is deep-rooted and requires more contacts and consultations before fruitful results of the mediation endeavours are reached, Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Monday.

"Syria's differences with Iraq are not of geographical or material nature," said Salman in an exclusive interview with the Jordan Times and Al Rai. "They are of a special nature, stemming mainly from the two countries' basic stands with regard to national issues," the minister added.

"Syria has always considered the Arab-Israeli conflict as of prime importance and believes that this issue should be given priority over all other considerations and that all efforts should be geared towards countering Israel's expansionist plans," he said. "This belief has given rise to numerous differences between Syria and Iraq," he explained further.

In reply to a question on Syria's



Mohammad Salman

efforts to end the seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, Salman said Damascus had been trying to settle the conflict ever since it broke out. "Syria believes that the war should be brought to an end so as to prevent a drain in Arab and Islamic resources — human and material — which should be mobilised in the confrontation with Israel," he said.

"Syria also believes that the Iran-Iraq war constitutes a source of danger to world security and stability and it deflects world attention from Israel's aggression on Arab countries," said the

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq rejects Iranian claim of new offensive

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Baghdad denied an Iranian claim Monday that its Revolutionary Guards killed or wounded 2,000 Iraqi troops in the second phase of an offensive in the northern mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan.

"All the figures announced by Tehran about Iraqi losses are incorrect," Abdul Jabbar Mohsen, head of the Iraqi Defence Ministry's political department, told reporters in Baghdad.

Tehran Radio quoted a war communique as saying the Iraqis suffered 2,000 casualties when the Iraqis repelled two counter-attacks in the Mawut area Sunday.

Denying the report, Mohsen said the Iraqi army was now "eliminating the remaining pockets of the offensive." He added that the Iranian attacks ended Monday after huge Iranian losses.

Iraq said it launched the assault Friday to drive Iraqi forces from heights around the garrison town of Mawut, occupied by Iran last June, and clear the way for further operations in the area.

Mawut, 10 kilometres from the Iranian border, is 120 kilometres north of Iraq's main oil-producing area of Kirkuk.

"Our forces are chasing the remnants of the Iranian forces which started their offensive three days ago... and it is the same offensive," Mohsen said.

Iraqi paper scoffs at talks
The Iraqi government newspaper

Al Jomhuriya scoffed at Arab efforts to open a dialogue between Iran and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to ease tension in the region.

Al Jomhuriya pointed to recent threats by Iranian leaders against Arab Gulf states, and repeated Baghdad's warnings that Iran was preparing for a major offensive against Iraq.

It said the Iranian threats were clear evidence that Iran "does not recognise any dialogue but that which relies on force."

The comment, which came in an editorial in the leading daily, was the first from Iraq on a diplomatic offensive launched by Syria in December, which culminated last week with meetings between Iranian and United Arab Emirates officials in Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

"Those who think that the Tehran rulers have even the slightest willingness for peace should have understood and carefully looked into the Iranian preparedness to carry out new military adventure against Iraq," the paper said.

"Such an adventure is not intended against Iraq alone but it embodies the Iranian grand intention to expand in the Gulf area," the paper warned.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday the military were on "full alert" ready to attack Iraq.

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Shevardnadze urges easing of Western curbs on exports

BONN (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze opened talks in Bonn Monday by urging the West to ease trade restrictions on advanced technology exports to the East bloc, officials said.

Shevardnadze and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher met for 90 minutes with their delegations, which then broke into working groups on security and disarmament, legal and humanitarian questions and bilateral issues.

"Both sides underlined the importance of overcoming the division of Europe," the West German Foreign Ministry said in a statement after talks.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said Shevardnadze and Genscher had expressed satisfaction at progress to date in building Soviet-West German relations and had stressed the need to deepen ties to create a safer "European home."

Sources close to the delegations said Shevardnadze had called for an easing of restrictions on East-West trade imposed by the Western trade body Cocom, the coordinating committee for multinational export controls.

The Soviet appeal comes at a time when West Germany, pushed by its business community, is seeking greater Cocom flexibility on exports of advanced technology to Eastern Europe. Cocom was set up in 1950 to prevent sales to Communist



Eduard Shevardnadze

countries of technology with possible military applications. It groups all NATO members except Iceland, and includes Japan. Shevardnadze also discussed arms control issues with West German President Richard von Weizsaecker after his talks with Genscher.

In a discussion on conventional forces and chemical weapons, they said, Shevardnadze acknowledged East-West imbalance and said the matter should be discussed.

Genscher said after the talks he believed the Kremlin was prepared to end its superiority in

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NATO chief wants longer range missiles, page 8

Iraqi dissident leader shot dead in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A gunman has shot dead a prominent Iraqi opposition leader in the crowded lobby of Khartoum's Hilton Hotel, then fired shots into the ceiling to scare witnesses into letting him escape.

Police were searching Monday for the killer of Mahdi Al Hakim, a Shi'ite Muslim leader whose brother serves as chairman of the Iranian-backed "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq."

Hakim, according to Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA), was in Khartoum to attend an Islamic conference — although he had not been invited — at which Baghdad was represented by an official delegation.

The attacker also shot Hakim's nephew, Halim Abdul Wahab Hakim, in the leg in the hotel Sunday evening and MENA said the wounded man identified the assailant as an Iraqi.

Witnesses to the shooting told Reuters that the gunman, who may have had an accomplice waiting in a car outside, approached the reception desk and asked to speak to Hakim, who was in the lobby.

They said the two men had a brief conversation and then Hakim called Abdul Wahab over to meet the visitor.

At that point the witnesses said the man pulled a gun and shot the two men.

"He fired six shots in all," said an Indian visitor to the hotel.

Pope condemns Israeli action against Al Aqsa worshipers

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul, unusually answering reporters' questions, has said he found Israeli police action against worshipers at a revered Jerusalem Mosque Friday unacceptable.

He went on to say the Soviet Union had not invited him for a visit this year.

The pontiff visited Rome's Foreign Press Club on Sunday for its 75th anniversary and once again demonstrated his mastery of the media.

He usually answers reporters only on planes during foreign tours but agreed to take five questions when asked by the club president at the end of a speech on journalists' duties.

After two unscripted questions the Pope himself challenged reporters, saying he had expected "more naughty" queries from the 200 in the room.

A Tunisian journalist asked his opinion on the use by Israeli

police of tear gas against people leaving Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest shrine, after Friday prayers.

"Certainly, one cannot accept in any way what you mentioned, that is, attacking people in prayer," he said.

He said he recognised Jewish rights and added: "But there are also rights for other people, for example, the Palestinians." Vatican policy to that Israel has a right to exist but the Palestinians need a homeland.

"A solution must be found and to find the solution the two sides must act. It must be bilateral. World opinion is waiting... They have been morally invited to tackle the problem, to resolve a

situation which is so painful," the Pope said.

Last month, the Pope criticised violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where at least 39 Palestinians have been killed in five weeks of revolt.

The Palestinian question and differences over whether Jerusalem should be the Israeli capital are the two main obstacles to diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel.

The Pope, who wants Jerusalem to have international status protecting it as sacred for Christians, Muslims and Jews, said the city was a moral point of reference for the great religions.

The other main topic was whether he would visit the Soviet Union this year for the one-thousandth anniversary of the advent of Christianity there.

The Pope said: "I think you are preparing for this trip more than I am. It must be a real visit as a

response to a real invitation. This invitation has not arrived so far."

He has said he would visit the Soviet Union only if he were allowed into Catholic areas such as the Ukraine and Lithuania.

The cordial atmosphere and the relaxed question-and-answer session ended abruptly when a journalist who defined himself as Jewish asked the Pope if his many recent references to the holocaust were an attempt to diminish its significance for Jews.

The pontiff, who had earlier smiled and joked with journalists, stared at the elderly man with piercing eyes and said coldly:

"I am shocked. I cannot say anything more. I am shocked by your question."

The Pope let his hands fall to his sides in obvious anger and amazement and made it clear he would not entertain further questions.

Indonesia condemns Israeli attack on mosque

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country, has strongly condemned Israel over a clash between police and Palestinians at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

"We not only regret but very strongly condemn Israel's action which is not conducive to peace efforts," Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja told an airport press conference Sunday.

Mochtar, who returned from a trip to Cairo, Madrid and Paris, said Friday's attack "creates problems for many countries, including the allies of Israel."

Israeli troops fired tear gas canisters during a protest as worshippers were coming out of Israel's third holiest shrine after Friday prayers.

Mochtar, who was in Cairo on Jan. 10, said he discussed with his Egyptian counterpart Esamat Abdul Maguid Israel's handling of the revolt in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where at least 39 Palestinians have been killed in the last month.

Japan calls for restraint

In Tokyo, Japan on Monday called on Israel to exercise restraint in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to ensure that there were no more casualties there.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the Israeli Ambassador in Tokyo, Yaacov Cohen, had been told it was regrettable the disturbances had not yet been settled and called on Israel to protect the rights of civilians in the area.

Demonstration in Seattle

About 200 people demonstrated Sunday outside the offices of the Seattle Times newspaper and three television stations, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokeswoman said.

Shirley Jeffers, of the Seattle-based Palestinian Human Rights Committee, said the demonstrators chose media offices because the Israeli-Palestinian issue "is hot right now."

She complained that the local media pay too little attention to what local human rights groups have to say about the revolt in the Middle East.

The peaceful midday demonstration started outside the Times' offices, then the protesters marched with a police escort to the television stations.

The demonstration included members of anti-apartheid groups and other human rights organisations, Jeffers said.

Speakers included Farhat Ziadah, a West Bank native who has lived in the United States for 40 years and is a retired University of Washington professor, Jeffers said.

The speakers called for an end to what they said was the U.S. government's funding of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli army attempts to starve Gaza refugees into submission

JABALIYA, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — One day after the Israeli army barred United Nations trucks filled with fruit and vegetables from this refugee camp, Farida Zidan and her six children ate the last of their food supply: tea and scraps of pita bread.

"We had food for today, now it is finished," said Mrs. Zidan, 45, holding an empty gallon-sized plastic bottle for cooking oil upside down to illustrate her point. "The last time we ate meat was in November. Fruit, we don't even see it."

Israeli army officers deny they are trying to starve the Palestinians into submission. Their tactic appears aimed at preventing Palestinians from going to their jobs, and storekeepers from earning revenue, in the belief that this will motivate the breadwinners to make the militants call a truce.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), the main Western relief group operating in the narrow coastal strip, reports critical shortages of food, fuel and medical supplies in all eight Gaza refugee camps, which are under at least partial curfew.

"People are not starving yet, but there is real hunger inside the camps. When we do get inside, people ask us for flour, for sugar, for milk, even for water," said Angela Williams, the acting director of UNRWA in Gaza.

A military spokesman said troops have turned away U.N. supplies during curfews but blamed U.N. officials for failing

to coordinate with the army. "I know of cases UNRWA officials didn't coordinate as they should have and they didn't get in. It requires close coordination and the army calls the shots," the officer said on condition of anonymity, in keeping with military regulations.

On Sunday, the 60,000 residents of Jabaliya, Gaza's largest refugee camp, endured the ninth day of a curfew that bars them from leaving their homes.

Mrs. Williams told the Associated Press the army has turned away U.N. trucks without giving reasons and failed to honour agreements to lift curfews to let supplies in.

"One day we were allowed to bring bread into the Bureij Camp but not fruit and vegetables. Another time the staff was allowed in, but no food. There are never any reasons given," Mrs. Williams said.

"It's the unpredictability that's so difficult. We should not have to negotiate every time."

The Bureij camp area commander, a colonel named Avi, strongly denied any refugee was deprived of basic needs.

"There are no problems with food inside Bureij," he said. "We have brought them kerosene to heat the food, gasoline to heat their homes."

He said: "I don't tell them (UNRWA) when the curfew is going to be lifted because... the situation changes every day. If may be women tell me they need milk, I send a car out to get milk."

Of complaints that the army stops U.N. trucks coming to stock supplies, he said: "Whoever said that is just a liar. Everyone who has a problem, the problem is solved."

Mrs. Williams said the army informed her the curfew at Jabaliya and beach camps would be lifted for an hour four days ago, but an AP reporter saw soldiers turn back U.N. supply trucks filled with bread and vegetables from both camps.

The U.N. changed tactics Sunday and sent its trucks to each of Gaza's refugee camps for the entire day to see if they could get in. Trucks were able to enter at least two camps, Mrs. Williams said.

Mrs. Williams said the curfews have disrupted U.N. feeding programmes for 8,000 refugee children between the ages of 3 and 10 years old.

She said less than 20 per cent of the children eligible for a daily meal of pita, canned beef and carrots receive it on any given day.

At Deir El Balah Camp, Aisha Madhi, 41, told AP Sunday she had only half a sack of flour and a few tomatoes left to feed her family of 12.

"Since the curfew, we have had no kerosene to cook food. We have no gas to heat our house," she said. "There is no milk. We are all very, very hungry."

AP reporter Jocelyn Novack watched hundreds of Palestinian refugees stream into the main street of beach camp to get food when the army lifted an eight-day curfew for an hour Saturday.

Europeans held in Lebanon 'could be swapped'

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinians who snatched eight Europeans from a yacht might seek to exchange them for prisoners held by Israel, a French mediator said in remarks published Monday.

Lucien Bitterlin, trying to free two young French girls held along with six adults, told the weekly Al Oubson Al Arabi the group were being held in South Lebanon by the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of commander leader Abu Nidal.

"I have started work on the

technical details for securing the release of the two girls from South Lebanon, where they are being held with the other prisoners," Bitterlin was quoted as saying in Paris.

The FRC said on Nov. 8 that it seized the group from a yacht off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. It described them as Israeli spies.

Israel said it had no record of them and statements from Brussels and Paris said they were French and Belgian Roman Catholics.

Bitterlin said FRC officials told him they did not seek a ransom for the group but would call for a prisoner exchange with Israel if they concluded they worked for Israeli intelligence.

The FRC did not regard them as hostages like other Westerners held in Lebanon, he said.

"They are being held as travellers suspected of working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad and their freedom is linked to the situation in the occupied territories and South Lebanon," he added.

Qatar, Bahrain meet on border dispute

RIYADH (R) — Foreign ministers of Bahrain and Qatar have met in Saudi-sponsored talks here in an effort to resolve a dispute over a cluster of islands in the Gulf, the Jeddah-based Arab News newspaper said.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa and Qatar's envoy Sheikh Ahmad bin Saif Al Thani spent two hours together on suggestions to end the impasse over the atolls lying between the neighbouring states.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal attended the talks.

Jury rejects probe of Israeli security role in Rome airport

ROME (AP) — A court trying three Palestinian defendants in the 1985 Rome airport attack Monday rejected a request aimed at investigating the role of Israeli security forces.

Judge Filippo Antonioni said the jury ruled that the request was beyond the mandate of the court.

On Friday, a lawyer representing survivors seeking civil damages in the case had requested that the court press the Italian government for details about the use of foreign police forces as part of security at Leonardo Da Vinci Airport.

On December 27, 1985, four gunmen attacked with hand

bombs and automatic rifles, aiming at a snack bar and at the check-in counters of TWA and El Al, the Israeli state carrier.

Sixteen people were killed, including three of the gunmen, and about 80 people were injured.

The trial indictment says four Israeli security agents as well as one Italian policeman opened fire after the attack began and that the gunmen were shot by the Israeli gunfire.

The gunmen who survived the attack, Mahmoud Ibrahim Khalid, is the only trial defendant in custody. The other two defendants are fugitives, including the alleged mastermind, Abu Nidal.

U.K. commander: Iranian speedboats 'major threat'

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The commander of a British warship on patrol duties in the Gulf said Monday he considers Iranian speedboats the major threat to commercial navigation.

The comment by Commander Robert I. Money was similar to a view expressed by U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci during his visit to the Gulf earlier this month.

Money told reporters aboard the Royal Navy frigate HMS Scylla, during a port call at Bahrain, that there have been increasing contacts between the U.S. and Soviet naval units in the Gulf.

"Glasnost is evident throughout the Gulf," he said. The Scylla is a member of the 80-unit Armilla Patrol, Britain's contribution to the armada of Western naval forces beefed up in the past year as Iranian threats to commercial navigation in the waterway escalated.

In a possibly parallel move to an expected thinning out of warships by the U.S. Navy, Money said Britain's supply ship, HMS Abdiel, would be released from duty, reducing the Armilla Patrol to 9 units.

"But he rejected any criticism of the deployment of the naval task forces in the region, stressing their importance for national flag vessels."

Stressing that he was speaking personally, the officer said he thought a multinational fleet under the U.N. flag was a feasible way to provide protection for vessels not protected by a particular navy but "in sharp focus" for Iran's raiders.

"The more cooperation we can have by everyone in town, the better it would be," he said. "If all the nations cooperated, it would be a better thing to make the Gulf less dangerous to sail."

The so-called tanker war, in which Iraq attacks Iran's oil tankers and Iran retaliates by striking neutral commercial ship-

ping, has been "progressively deteriorating," Money said.

According to the London-based Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Unit, there were 34 strikes in December out of a total of 178 ships attacked by both combatants throughout the year, making both 1987 and the month the worst since the tanker war began in 1984.

Naval officers and others say the Iranians are growing more efficient with their attacks, whether through targeting ability or better weapons.

Money said the speedboats succeeded in the "terrible threat" of Chinese-made Silkworm missiles that the Iranians have deployed at the strategic Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf.

There were "practical difficulties" in the selection and control of firing a Silkworm at a ship passing through the narrow strait with so much traffic around, but "the speedboats are the biggest threat," he said.

"They have a small radar signature, are difficult to pick up and very difficult to detect... they have no radios, they are relatively heavily armed," he said.

Incendiary devices

In addition, he said, the Iranians have introduced incendiary devices, which he described as "phosphorus derived shells or grenades" that cause more severe fires aboard commercial ships.

The most recent attack by Iran's Swedish-built Boghammar speedboats, on the Liberian-flag tanker Rainbow last Saturday, occurred in Omani territorial waters, he noted.

"The Omanis told them they were violating their water and directed them to leave, and the next moment the Rainbow was burning fiercely," Money said.

Mines, speedboats, and the Silkworms are considered the three major threats to commer-

cial navigation in the Gulf, which provides about 20 per cent of the non-Communist World's oil supply.

The convoy of U.S. warships and the reflagged Kuwaiti tanker Chesapeake City, a 79,999-ton petroleum products carrier, were spotted mid-morning as they approached the Strait of Hormuz.

The U.S. convoy, the third this year, by warships of the 11-unit U.S. Middle East Force for Kuwait tankers that fly the Stars and Stripes, set out from Kuwait on Friday and should have earlier completed the average 2 to 3-day trip through the waterway.

But it had been delayed in the central Gulf as it had to wait for a navy supply ship that was not at the rendezvous point north of the Qatar peninsula, according to U.S. Navy officials.

Money said known minefields had been cleared, but the Armilla Patrol would retain its four mine-hunting units because the threat could recur and it would take six weeks to bring them back.

Two frigates and a destroyer "accompany" about 15 to 20 British flag or British-owned com-

mercial vessels every week through the Hormuz and up to the central Gulf. A convoy of British vessels was moving northward through the Hormuz on Monday as a U.S.-escorted one was sailing out. Helicopter-borne reporters said.

Money said Royal Navy rules of engagement offer protection to the British ships and to "assisting in saving lives" aboard vessels of other nationalities when necessary. He cited various cases of humanitarian assistance by British ships, including one on Christmas Day, to non-British ships.

The Scylla has not been close to any ship under attack. Asked what would happen if it were, Money said he would decide at the time but stressed "we are not acting as policemen... it's more like picking up the pieces after action has taken place."

He said there was a general atmosphere of tension in the Gulf, where ships must be vigilant against the Iraqis as well as the Iranians. "You learn to expect the unexpected... as soon as the pattern is set... it changes... it's all extremely unpredictable."

Greece claims right to extend Aegean territorial waters

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government has reiterated that it had the right to extend Greece's territorial waters in the Aegean Sea to 12 miles from six.

"The extension of the Greek territorial waters to 12 miles from six is a purely Greek affair," government spokesman Yannis Roubatis said in a statement.

Turkey said on Saturday it would not tolerate any Greek move to extend its territorial waters in the Aegean, following a statement by Greek Energy Minister Anastassios Peponis that Greece was planning oil explorations in the disputed waters.

The exchanges came two weeks before a planned meeting between Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at an international economic forum in Switzerland.

Greece and Turkey, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), nearly came to blows last March after Turkey said the seismic survey ship Piri Reis would search for oil around three Greek islands off its coast.

A clash was averted when the ship remained inside Turkish waters and Papandreu has been exchanging messages with Ozal since then.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme review
16:00	Children's programmes
16:30	World Sales Spirit Day
17:00	In Search of the Past
17:45	Local programme
18:15	Basketball
19:00	Message from Oman
19:15	Local programme
19:45	Programme review and variety
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Cultural programme
22:00	Variety programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Deux de conduite
19:00	News in French
19:15	French de plus
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Apertide
21:30	Executive Stress
22:00	News in English
22:10	The Equalizer
23:20	Three's Company
RADIO JORDAN	
655 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9500 KHz, SW	
Tel. 774111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:10	Just a Minute
11:00	Good Old Days
12:00	News Summary
12:05	30-Minute Theatre
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Instruments
14:30	15 Minute Theatre
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instruments
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Pop Talk
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
18:30	Music
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
★ A painting exhibition by German artist Ingeborg Grosjean at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).	
★ An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28).	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7	American Consulate .. 643771
American Consulate .. 643771	British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	Goethe Institute .. 641993
Scotia Cultural Centre .. 644203	Spanish Cultural Centre .. 630409
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777	Haya Arts Centre .. 660195
Hussein Youth Club .. 671816	Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251	Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ota (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luveldah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817334.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luveldah, Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Taramana, Tel. 661757.	
Taramana Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luveldah, mass in Italian language, most every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623833, chaplain's residence, Tel. 601339.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyya, Tel. 677334.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811235.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821264.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:40	Jeddah (RJ)
09:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:10	Lamaca (RJ)
17:35	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:00	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
18:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:15	Istanbul (RJ)
19:40	Tripoli (RJ)
19:45	Rome (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

13:20	Moscow (SU)
13:40	Bucharest (RO)
13:40	Kuwait (KU)
14:45	Tripoli (LN)
15:00	Riyadh (SV)
16:30	Cairo (MS)
17:45	Rome (AZ)
19:15	Dubai (EK)
28:10	Zurich, Lamaca (SR)
06:30	London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00	Agaba (RJ)
10:45	Rome (RJ)
10:45	Tripoli (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:45	Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, London (RJ)
12:45	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Lanzetta (RJ)
19:35	Kuwait (RJ)
19:40	Dhahran (RJ)
20:15	Cairo (RJ)
20:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15	Damascus (RJ)
22:00	Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:30	Beirut (ME)
14:50	Moscow (SU)

15:10	Bucharest (RO)
15:45	Kuwait (LN)
16:40	Riyadh (SV)
17:20	Cairo (MS)
18:30	Damascus (AZ)
20:15	Dubai (EK)

PRAYER TIMES

05:11	Fajr
06:23	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:46	Dhuhur
14:26	Asr
17:00	Maghrib
18:21	Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Monday rates

<i>Local sell/buy rates in ffs</i>		
Belgian franc	95.3/	97
Dutch guilder	177.3/	180.6
French franc	95.1/	60.1
Italian lira	21.7/	27.6
Japanese yen (for 100)	272.7/	262.2
Swedish crown	55.4/	56.4
Swiss franc	244.2/	248.9
U.K. sterling pound	594.8	605.2
U.S. dollar	337/	342
W. German mark	199.1	202.8

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight increase in temperature is expected, with the appearance of low clouds, and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	1/11
Agaba	8/19
Deir ez	0/13
Jordan Valley	6/19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Agaba 16. Humidity readings:

Finnish firm, JEA to build power sub-stations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Stromberg Company of Finland Monday signed a JD 2.75 million contract with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to draw up designs for and supervise the installation of equipment at power sub-stations to be constructed at a number of locations in the Kingdom.

Under the contract, Stromberg will install switchboard systems for the sub-stations at Shidieh, Azraq, Risha, Qasr Dusi, Safawi and Kweishid, and assist in expanding sub-stations in Irbid, Qatranah, Hassa and Qweirah.

The company will begin forwarding equipment for these projects as of June 1988, according to the contract.

The projects are needed to supply electricity to the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company mines in Shidieh, Al Azraq water pumping stations, Al Risha gas fields and agricultural projects at Dusi and other regions.

The contract said that JEA will cooperate with Stromberg in implementing these projects.

Masri honours outgoing British ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Monday hosted a banquet at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in honour of outgoing British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles to mark the end of his term here.

In his speech during the banquet, Masri praised the British envoy's efforts towards boosting relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom.

Coles, in his address, also paid tribute to the distinguished relations between the two countries.

The banquet was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nabil Al Nimr and senior ministry officials, as well as members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

Coles has been made high commissioner to Australia, a post corresponding to the status of ambassador in a member of the British Commonwealth.

He has been serving as his country's ambassador here since November 1984.

ARAMCO completes 1987 aid to occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Monday received more contributions for the benefit of the Palestinian people living under Israeli rule as a part of a national effort to assist charitable institutions in the occupied territories.

An announcement said that Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin received a cheque for \$105,000 from the Arab American Oil Company (ARAMCO), the second contribution from ARAMCO in two weeks.

ARAMCO representative in Amman Jamal Sarrafah presented the cheque to Dudin, as he did the first contribution of \$84,000 on Jan. 4.

With the new donation, ARAMCO has thus completed its 1987 contributions to charitable organisations, according to the announcement.

In addition, ARAMCO makes annual financial contributions to universities in the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs has set up a special team to design a list of priorities on which contributions can be spent.

Health Ministry to design plan for achieving WHO goal

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Monday at the Ministry of Health to discuss cooperation between the public and private sectors towards achieving "health for all people by the year 2000" — a goal set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Participants in the meeting chaired by the Health Ministry Secretary-General Suleiman Subeih also discussed the topics considered at a WHO-sponsored seminar held recently in Bangkok on the attainment of the health for all people by the year 2000, and the development of health personnel towards reaching this goal.

The meeting decided to design a working plan including measures for achieving the WHO goal.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh headed Jordan's delegation to the seminar which ended in Bangkok on Jan. 6.

Drug trafficker sentenced to 5 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mahmoud Mohammad Mahmoud Soudus to five years in prison and fined him JD 500 for trafficking hashish. The sentence was endorsed by the general military governor.

Peres renews bid for elections

(Continued from page 1)

called for new elections in the six weeks since anti-Israeli protests erupted in the occupied territories.

Peres, speaking to reporters Monday, suggested a spring election but acknowledged: "It's quite complicated because at the moment there is no (parliamentary) majority either way."

"What I have heard here and what I've been told by many people confirms my view that the Israeli army has at times used pretty harsh measures and perhaps disproportionate measures in reacting to this violence," he told reporters.

"But please don't think I underestimate the difficulty of the situation which the army faces at the present time," he added. "It is a tragic and very difficult situation in the camps."

Peres said that even if the army quelled the protests, soldiers could not "provide a solution. It is for the politicians to do that."

But because of internal discord, "government policy is in effect paralysed," Peres said.

"I think we can do an election in 90 days at minimal cost," Peres said. "We cannot leave Israel without a political decision... whoever says there is no hurry needs to check his eyesight."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday that the PLO was ready to recognise Israel if the Jewish state was willing to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

Speaking on the American CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" programme, Arafat said: "Are they ready to accept my right to have my political rights and human rights? If they will accept, I will accept."

Speaking from Baghdad, Arafat brushed off an interviewer's

suggestion that new Palestinian leadership might help resolve the conflict, saying, "the Palestinian people is one unit... one leadership... and one resistance... the whole problem is not the new leadership or old leadership."

Hanna Siniora, a senior editor of the Palestinian newspaper Al Fajr, speaking on the CBS programme from Jerusalem, said Arabs were willing to co-exist with Israel, but Palestinians must eventually have their own state.

And he reiterated that the PLO was the Palestinians' representative in talks with Israel.

"Each people should be allowed to choose their own leaders," Siniora said. "The Palestinians should be represented by the Palestinian representative, which is the PLO."

Sounding more conciliatory than Arafat, Siniora said "autonomy" for Palestinians "could lead eventually after a couple of years to negotiations between the state of Israel and the PLO, ending as a Palestinian state emerging as a result of those negotiations."

In the CBS programme, Arafat also said he accepts all U.N. resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and offered to negotiate with Israel at a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference without preconditions.

"I am offering a challenge to this Israeli military junta, to accept my peace projects... to (sit) around a table at an international conference... If you want peace to be implemented in this area, this peace has to go through the U.N.... to go all together without preconditions to the international conference."

"I am saying I am accepting 242 and 338 including and within the context of all United Nations resolutions (of) international legality," he added.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday confers with Egyptian Minister of Scientific Research Adel 'Izz on scopes of bilateral cooperation in the fields of scientific research and technology (Petra photo)

Japan grants JD 105,000 in cultural aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan is to provide JD 105,000 worth of technical assistance to the Jordanian Department of Antiquities within the framework of a Japanese cultural grant aid.

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and the charge d'affaires at the Japanese embassy here, Shigeyuki Suzuki, signed and exchanged memoranda on the new grant through which the Japanese will supply equipment for the restoration of archaeological monuments in the country.

The equipment includes: a wheel excavator, a wheel loader, a compressor, a vibration roller and audio-visual aids.

Japan's Cultural Grant Programme aims to assist Jordan in cultural and educational development through contributing equipment for protecting and utilising cultural properties, holding cultural exhibitions and lectures and promoting education and research.

Under this programme, Japan has so far extended to Jordan three cultural grant aid offers: the first for the Ministry of Education in 1982; the second for the University of Jordan in 1984; and the third for the Jordan Sports Federation in 1986. The total of cultural grant aid, including the latest offer, amounts to approximately JD 399,000.

Japanese economic team arrives

In another development, a team from the Japanese Fund for Overseas Economic Cooperation arrived here Monday for a two-week visit to Jordan.

The team will tour Jordanian water, irrigation and sewerage projects to study the prospect of contributing to them.

The Japanese visitors will also meet with officials at the ministries of planning, public works, housing, and water and irrigation to discuss these projects.

Housing Bank staffers study low-cost housing development in 5 countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of eight professionals involved with private sector housing here and interested in reorienting their efforts towards building lower cost housing recently returned from a five-country tour to study successful developer-built housing projects abroad.

The group visited Bombay, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore. About half the cost of the trip was financed with \$47,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Members of the group were impressed with the well-built and well-managed housing for low-income families, but they noted that this service came at a high cost to the government. Two of the governments provided the land and heavily subsidised interest rates, practices which, considering the high cost of land and tight ministerial budgets in Jordan, are not viable solutions here.

The trip brought some important new perspectives for at least one member of the Housing Bank staff. "We left Amman feeling modest about our accomplishments in this area, because we were aware that there are other institutions that have done more," commented the Housing Bank official, "but we returned feeling very proud of our experience and practice, because in many of the countries we visited, financial institutions were concentrating on just one line of business. They are now planning trips here in May to learn about diversification from us."

The group discovered that there is a secondary mortgage market in Kuala Lumpur, a banking strategy that is widespread in the U.S. but not common in lower and middle-income countries. The Housing Bank will investigate the Kuala Lumpur experience in secondary mortgage to see if it may have application here.

The group included five officials from the Jordan Housing Bank. Assistant to the Deputy General Manager for Banking Operations Abdelkader Dweik; Manager of the Low Cost Housing Department Ibrahim Dahar; Manager of the Research Development Abdul Aziz Heikal; Nabih Juweinat from the Loan Office/Marketing and Planning; and Loan and Credit Facilities Department Manager Ali Hamada.

Syrian minister: More efforts needed to heal rift

(Continued from page 1)

He confirmed that Damascus had stepped up its efforts for peace in the Gulf and to prevent an expansion of the Iran-Iraq war and these efforts had achieved some success. Damascus "will continue its efforts, which are designed to bring the two warring states to the negotiating table and initiate a dialogue based on mutual understanding without any pressure or influence of the foreign naval presence in the Gulf," he added. The minister said the foreign naval forces in the Gulf had in fact increased tension in the region.

But, he said, "Syria realises that certain hostile forces are trying to ruin its attempts towards bringing about peace and trying to involve the Arab Gulf states in the war."

Syrian-PLO ties

Replying to a question on Syria's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the minister said: "Syria, which bears a major responsibility and commitment in confronting Israel, realises that the enemy harbours expansionist intentions towards the Arab World. Therefore, we strive to rally all Arab forces and to work with Arab countries within a pan-Arab plan to thwart the enemy's objectives. We deal and coordinate with other Arab states and with the PLO in the light of this clear national commitment."

"In addition, Syria, which seeks to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, does not accept partial solutions on the problem and demands a total boycott of all contacts with the Israeli enemy and the Camp David accord, and calls on the Arabs to adopt an armed struggle strategy in dealing with the common enemy."

"Agreement on these points is bound to help to remove all obstacles that impede a return of normal relations between Syria and the PLO leadership, and can ensure Syria's support for any Palestinian movement's struggle against Israel."

Damascus-Cairo relations

On his country's relations with

Egypt, the Syrian minister made it clear that the Camp David accord stands in the way of restoring normal relations between the two countries. He said Damascus severed relations with Cairo "because of the Camp David agreement, which cut off Egypt from the Arab World and prevented it from honouring its national commitments towards its sister countries."

On Syria's efforts to end the Lebanese crisis, the minister noted that his country had been exerting efforts to save Lebanon from further civil war and unrest. Damascus has been mediating among warring factions, but "Israel and its lackeys and other hostile forces have been working in the opposite direction trying to thwart Syria's efforts and cause a fragmentation of Lebanon's territory."

He emphasised that despite the obstacles Syria would continue its efforts to bring about a reconciliation among the various Lebanese parties and help restore security and stability in Lebanon. On Jordanian-Syrian relations, Salama said Amman-Damascus ties were "characterised by mutual understanding and coordination and brotherly cooperation in bolstering pan-Arab action and confronting the Israeli enemy."

Jordan and Syria are also coordinating their efforts in economic, social and cultural fields through agreements and joint projects like the Al Waddah Dam, and also through joint companies, the minister noted.

He expressed hope that the two countries would succeed in further promoting their bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Egypt urged to scrap treaty

A senior member of Syria's ruling party urged Egypt Monday to scrap its peace treaty with Israel.

"Our conflict with the enemy is not a dispute over territories. It is a conflict of survival where half-solutions are not accepted," Reuter quoted Suliman Qaddah, assistant secretary of the Baath Party regional command, as saying.

That is why we rejected the Camp David accord (for Egyptian-Israeli peace), Qaddah told a Damascus rally attended by about 15,000 people to show support for Palestinian protesters in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Party and government leaders, including Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, joined leaders of Damascus-based Palestinian groups at the rally.

"Look at brutal Israeli actions in Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan..." Qaddah said. "Remove this barrier (the peace treaty) which cancelled Egypt's role and deprived the Arabs of a big help at a critical time."

Panels discuss Palestinian uprising

(Continued from page 1)

"The cabinet reviewed the siege imposed on Palestinians in the occupied lands to cut off food and medicine to force them to stop their tremendous revolution against occupation and injustice," Rashid said.

Rashid said the aid was "a contribution from Kuwait to lessen the suffering of our brothers in Palestine and help them continue their heroic defiance."

In Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian cabinet also decided to send medicine, wheat, milk and other foodstuffs to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer said in a statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, that the aid would be given to the United Nations immediately for distribution to the brotherly Palestinian people.

Djibouti protested Monday against Israeli actions against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah read a statement to diplomats saying the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was a reminder that nothing had been settled in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"These acts show international public opinion the true nature of the racist occupation and its aim, which is to exterminate the Palestinian people, expel them from their territory and efface the roots of their existence," the statement said.

Jordan and Egypt study ways to increase cooperation in scientific research, technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday conferred with Egyptian Minister of Scientific Research Adel 'Izz on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in scientific research and technology.

The meeting at the prime minister's office was attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh.

'Izz, who arrived here Sunday for an official visit met earlier with Minister of Higher Education Nassef El-Sayed to discuss bilateral cooperation in scientific research. Assad briefed the Egyptian minister on Jordan's higher education and scientific research, noting that 56,000 students are currently attending higher education institutions in the Kingdom.

In addition, he said, nearly 40,000 Jordanian students are presently acquiring higher education abroad.

For his part, 'Izz proposed that

periodic pan-Arab conferences on scientific research be held to promote inter-Arab cooperation in this field.

He also stressed the need for promoting the level and scientific teaching in Arab countries, which he said was essential for development and prosperity.

The Egyptian minister briefed Assad on Egypt's scientific research programmes and scopes of bilateral cooperation in conducting research.

'Izz later met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, along with the directors of the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Natural Resources Authority. The two sides reviewed cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in energy, technology and scientific research.

nology and scientific research.

Egyptian minister meets with Anani

Also Monday, 'Izz met with Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani for talks on implementing the protocol for scientific cooperation signed between Jordan and Egypt in 1987 and progress on a number of joint scientific projects.

Anani reviewed the society's development, research programmes, as well as its cooperation with Arab and foreign scientific institutions.

'Izz then reviewed the activities and achievements of scientific research centres in Egypt.

The Egyptian minister and Anani also discussed RSS energy research and production projects.

In addition, Secretary-General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology Adnan Badran briefed 'Izz on the council's structure and its national goals.

Zarqa police crack down on beggars

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa police are currently conducting a wide-scale campaign to rid the city of beggars. According to local officials, most of the beggars are being turned over to the social development department here.

Zarqa Governor Eid Al Qataneh said that the authorities were acting upon the specific instructions of the Ministry of Interior.

Solving the problem of the

beggars in Zarqa requires close cooperation between all concerned parties, particularly the Ministry of Social Development, according to Qataneh.

He said that committees should be formed to handle the problem, and charitable and voluntary societies should be enlisted to provide needy families with food and clothing, in an effort to prevent begging.

Director of the Zarqa Social Development Department Hamdullah Abul Samen said that his department had already begun a social and economic conditions study of all beggars brought in by the police.

Zarqa Municipal Council Chairman Badri Bahuddin said that the municipality would be willing to contribute to the effort to remove all beggars from the city.

Post Office Savings Fund to expand loan operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Post Office Savings Fund (POSF) will soon open its doors to government employees, retired civil servants and army personnel to take out loans, POSF Director-General Ghazi Rifai announced Monday.

He said that the plan, expected to go into effect within the next few weeks, would enable these people to acquire money for their needs, and, at the same time, secure benefits for the depositors.

The POSF normally invests in major projects in Jordan, in addition to providing long-term loans for covering education costs, according to Rifai. He noted that students can pay back their loans over long periods — 20 years in some cases — provided that the students' parents save with the POSF for at least two years.

According to Rifai, the POSF,

established in 1966, offers a grace period, whereby students can wait two years after graduation before beginning to repay their debts. Rifai added that the POSF has already begun to purchase bonds issued by the Central Bank of Jordan, thus ensuring financial benefits for the fund and simultaneously enabling the government to carry out its development projects.

According to Rifai, the POSF,

'Mosaics in Jordan' slide exhibit opens

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of colour slides entitled "Mosaics in Jordan: An Art and Culture" by photographer Ghuson Darjijan will be opened at the Nor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) this evening under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

An announcement here Sunday said that the proceeds of the

exhibition will benefit NHF projects.

The exhibition, to last until Sunday, Jan. 24, will display 51 slides featuring scenery and aspects of culture in the Kingdom, especially in Jerash and Madaba.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Darjijan

said that the slides were intended to focus light on archaeological sites and find in Jordan, as well as the different aspect of life in the Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad and the early Abbasid eras.

The slides depict agricultural life, hunting scenes, architecture and traditional costumes during these periods.

Gaza remains under siege

(Continued from page 1)

Up to 110,000 Arabs from occupied territories work in Israel.

Kollek visits Aqsa

The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, visited Al Aqsa Mosque Monday to reassure Muslims that their rights there were not being challenged despite Friday's storming of the mosque by Israeli policemen.

"What happened here (the police action) was not a hidden attempt to assert that (the area) was not Muslim," Kollek said after touring the eighth century edifice, Islam's third holiest shrine, and meeting Jerusalem Mufti Sheikh Saadedin Al Alami.

About 70 Palestinians were hurt in the Friday's storming. Kollek told Alami there would be no future police interference if Muslim religious leaders assumed responsibility for calm in the area.

Alami, a frail white-bearded man in his mid-80s who emerged from a hospital sickbed to witness

the Friday clash, did not reply directly to the proposal.

His voice shook with indignation when he described police beating captured young demonstrators to the ground and kicking them as he stood by powerless.

"What happened was something terrible. They hit the young Muslims with their feet... we don't want any police here, we don't want the police to kill us," he said showing Kollek a bloodied and broken police baton.

An embarrassed Kollek replied that beating captives was not admissible.

When Kollek told his host that safety for Muslims should be accompanied by security for Jews praying at the nearby western wall, Alami replied emotionally: "How can I go see other parts of Jerusalem when the police want to kill me in my mosque?"

Alami showed Kollek four empty U.S.-manufactured CS gas grenades fired into the mosque. Kollek was shown traces of black powder on prayer carpets where they landed.

Shevardnadze in Bonn

(Continued from page 1)

conventional forces. Genscher also renewed calls for an East-West agreement to ban chemical weapons, underscoring emerging differences on the issue between West Germany and its other NATO partners.

Speaking shortly before he was slated to open a second round of talks with Shevardnadze, Genscher praised the Kremlin for showing flexibility on the chemical weapons issue.

"I believe we will be able to reach an agreement in the near future on chemical weapons, following the Soviet Union's acceptance of important Western demands over the past few months, above all, those that concern verification of a possible accord," Genscher said in a radio interview.

U.S. officials have recently said it would be difficult to reach a chemical weapons accord with the Soviet Union, because such an agreement would be hard to verify.

Genscher also said he believed the Soviet Union was prepared to end its superiority in conventional weapons in central Europe, long a strong concern of West Germany, NATO's front-line nation.

"I have no doubt, that — as with the medium-range missiles — the Soviet Union is seriously prepared to eliminate its superiority (in conventional weapons) through negotiations," Genscher told a radio interviewer.

Last month, the superpowers signed an accord to scrap medium-range nuclear missiles worldwide.

Goulding assails occupation

(Continued from page 1)

emergency UNRWA food supplies to be distributed there. He defended the U.N. against Israeli charges of bias, noting that the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip gave the world body a legal right to comment on their situation.

In the Gaza Strip, seven of a total of eight refugee camps were under military curfew.

A senior U.N. official said there were severe food shortages in several camps, reducing the majority of families to one meal a day. Some 500 UNRWA employees staged a sit-in strike at the U.N. headquarters in protest.

Leaders of two Gaza refugee camps under curfew appealed to the Israeli army to ease the restrictions and free detainees and were told that first "order" must be restored.

Goulding left for New York Monday.

PLO to press demand

BAGHDAD (AP) — An official Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman said Monday that the PLO would again ask the United Nations Security Council to use its mandatory power and dispatch U.N. forces to the occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif told the AP that the PLO would call on the council when it meets Wednesday to take "clear resolution to send international troops to the occupied territories and provide protection for Palestinians against organised terrorist activities of the Israeli forces."

"The Palestinian people hope that the Security Council will take such a resolution in order to help in ending the Israeli occupation and restore Palestinian rights specially their right in self-determination and establishing their national state," Abu Sharif said.

Jordan Times

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Is nothing sacred?

AS the United Nations holds its breath in anticipation of the report of U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding on his fact-finding mission to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli violence against the Palestinians accelerated as Israeli troops stormed the Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques during prayer time Friday. This latest desecration of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem was condemned worldwide, particularly in that it added a religious overtone to an already politically overcharged situation in the occupied territories.

It was most commendable of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to voice his deploration of Israel's latest blatant attack on a religious site in Jerusalem, preceded by desecrations of Muslim and Christian holy places. Let us forget, the Holy Sepulchre was repeatedly desecrated by the Israelis from the time they seized military control of the Holy City. Likewise, Al Aqsa Mosque was literally put to the torch by an Israeli zealot in 1968.

All in all, Israel's record as a trusted custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem has been anything but reassuring. Furthermore, Israel's repeated violation of the sanctity of the Muslim and Christian holy places surely enflames animosity between the three main monotheistic religions, thus endangering the atmosphere of tolerance among these faiths, regionally and internationally.

We hope, therefore, that Goulding's report to the U.N. includes a call for the establishment of an international regime for Jerusalem as a means for protecting the religious shrines in the Holy City. Anything short of that would run the risk of leading to a breakdown in religious tolerance and harmony. Such a breakdown would surely produce profound and dangerous repercussions throughout the world. That is why we in the region expect the international community to accord due attention to the issue of Jerusalem. Now is the time to press forward, strongly, to ensure that the sanctity of the Holy City is preserved for Muslims, Christians and Jews alike.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Forty years of illusion

THE current uprising in the occupied Arab territory comes on the eve of Israel's preparations for celebrating its 40th anniversary. The uprising which has now entered its sixth week is placing the Israeli society and its leadership face to face with the illusion which is destroying their future and frustrating their aspirations. The uprising is making it clear for Israel that after 40 years of occupation, the Israeli society finds itself in square one, trying to make their feet firm on the land they have usurped from the Arabs, and confronting the Arab people whom the Zionists are trying to subdue by force. Since 1948, the Israeli entity has been relying on illusions and on imagining that the land they occupied is theirs through power and force of arms, and that Israel's presence has become a fact of life that cannot be questioned. Israel has been imagining that with its might it can never face any defeat and with its force it can impose its will on the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: The ever-regretful Shultz

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has come forward to offer his country's apologies to Israel for its stand at the U.N. Security Council which urged Israel to rescind its expulsion orders against the Palestinians. Shultz's move came amid the ongoing revolt in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip where the Arab people continue to face Israel's terrorism and repression which was condemned by the Security Council and the world at large. Shultz's apology to Israel resembles a repentant person wishing to express sorrow for not abiding by the wishes of Zionism and Israel at a time when the whole world is condemning Israel's actions. The Israelis who realised that the United States will finally come to their support and apologise for its behaviour did not feel embarrassed in going ahead with its plans in the occupied territories and to disregard the Security Council resolutions. We consider Israel's disregard to the Security Council's resolutions and the international community's will as a result of the wide-scale support the Jewish state continues to receive from American leaders. We call for urgent support to be extended to the Palestinian people and we also urge Arab countries to find means for stemming America's total support for Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab land.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for world action

THE continued Arab uprising in the occupied territories call on the world community in general and the Arab people in particular to speed up work for a political solution for the Middle East problem, ensuring the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. The situation in the Israeli-held lands should prompt all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to take action now and demand the convening of an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices. The situation warrants speedy action in view of the present Israeli escalation of its terrorist campaign against our brothers in the occupied land. The uprising against the Israeli occupation opens the way for the world community to work seriously towards re-establishing peace in our region. In the meantime, we believe that the struggle of our brothers in the face of Israel's repression will teach the Israelis a lesson, and will make them wake up to the fact that they cannot continue to impose their will on others.

The View from Second Circle

Who hears the message of the stones?

THE sustained show of resistance by the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza during the past six weeks is not, in itself, surprising. It was only a matter of time until the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation rose up in such a display of nationalism and anger. The lessons of South Lebanon have been learned; only when the enemy is confronted in a dramatic and sustained manner will the enemy calculate the true cost of occupation, and then consider it more cost efficient to end, rather than to perpetuate, the occupation. Of course, we have not reached that stage — yet.

The initial Israeli response — typical of the psyche of the occupier — has been to strike with a hard fist, to insist that violence will never achieve political goals, and to revive the offer of transitional autonomy that is the centrepiece of the Camp David accords. It is one of history's more grotesque ironies that someone such as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should presume to tell the Palestinians that they will never achieve their nationalistic goals through violence — when he is the living embodiment of how one achieves nationalistic goals through violence, terror and militarism.

There is no need to seek profound explanations for what is happening in the occupied Palestinian lands. A population that has been militarily occupied, culturally denied and politically disenfranchised has reached the limit of its endurance and its patience, and has reacted in a very logical and normal manner. It behooves the rest of the world to recognise the essential significance of what is happening: That an occupied people seeks liberty, that a Palestinian nation seeks to be born.

Much of the discussion about the uprising, in Israel, the Arab World and abroad, has missed the point. It is irrelevant whether the uprising has been instigated by indigenous elements, the PLO, Arab states or any other parties; we should not get caught in the false and peripheral debate about who are the winners and losers from the Palestinian uprising. It has been a long-term goal of Israel and the United States to portray the Palestinians as lawless folk who have historically lacked a decisive leadership. The corollary to this attitude is that whenever a dramatic development takes place in the land of Palestine, it should be attributed either to mindless terrorists or to a confused Palestinian population that is leaderless.

For decades, Israel and the United States have tried every conceivable gimmick to avoid dealing with the Palestinians as a people who view themselves as a unified national unit with national rights. Faced with the current uprising, the United States and Israel maintain the same attitude: They focus on the violence as a cause of the conflict, rather than appreciating it as a symptom of the deeper problems of unresolved national rights.

The fact is, the children of Palestine have taught everybody a useful lesson. The question is, how many people will heed the lesson, and respond in a rational and constructive manner?

For the Palestinians and the other Arabs, the lesson is that unified and forceful action is the most effective means of political gain. It is instructive that during the past six weeks, there has been unanimous support in the Arab World for the Palestinian uprising, the Amal militia in Lebanon has ended its blockade of Palestinian refugee camps, the various Palestinian groups in Palestine and further afield have rallied around the stone-throwing children, the entire world has condemned Israel's harsh tactics, and the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel have rallied to support their brethren in the West Bank and Gaza.

In such a context, it becomes meaningless to talk about the role or influence of the PLO, or the political balance among the various new indigenous leadership groups that people have identified within the occupied territories. Why should the Palestinians be viewed as a constituency that is up for grabs? The truth is that with the indigenous Palestinian leadership in Palestine either jailed or deported, and with the PLO facing severe operational constraints inside and outside Palestine, the Palestinian people have erupted in a spontaneous expression of their identity and their national aspirations. The short-term disagreements and tactical divergencies among Palestinian groups, or between the PLO and various Arab governments, should not overshadow the more important reality that the children of the West Bank and Gaza have, for the moment, assumed the position of leadership in the Arab World. All the rest of us — governments, movements, individuals — watch and cheer.

The children lead.

For the Israelis and the Americans, the lessons of today's events should be that the Palestinian people will accept neither submission nor oblivion. It is a lesson that should be familiar to both Americans and Israelis, whose national experiences have embodied a determination to achieve liberty against formidable odds. Why is it that the United States and Israel cannot appreciate the manifestation of Palestinian national identity, when they have both shown the world what it means to forge, to sustain and to exercise a national identity?

In due course, given the reality of human nature and the short-term power of Israel's state militarism, the Palestinian rebellion will subside. That is when the true test of Israel and the Israeli people will begin. It is not surprising that the initial reaction of most Israelis has been to support the government's tough policy. Such is the biology of fear. But what will the Israelis and the American government do when they realise that this winter's uprising is not an isolated event, and that the Palestinians will wave their flag over and over again — like Memphis, Da Nang, Soweto and Gdansk — until there is justice, sovereignty and security for the Palestinians, in Palestine?

Thoughtful Israelis and honest Israeli leaders — and I am convinced that both exist, and one day will prevail in Israel — will

realise and declare publicly that Israeli militarism is not the appropriate response to Palestinian nationalism. The Israeli general elections later this year may provide an opportunity for such people to assert themselves, as a limited number of Israelis asserted during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon that militarism and occupation were not the right way to deal with the perceived threat from South Lebanon. When the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance fought the Israelis in South Lebanon, Israelis finally withdrew.

Faced with the less militaristic uprising of the Palestinians in Palestine, will Israelis react in a similar manner later this year? We shall soon find out. There will come a historical moment and opportunity in the modern history of Israel when the Jewish people will have to decide if theirs is a universal or an exclusivist ethic — if the morality of Moses and the patriarchy of Abraham is the shared heritage of all Semites, or the privileged right of only one branch of the Semitic family. This year may offer just such an opportunity. The Israeli people will either seize it, and rejoice in a celebration of a universal ethic of humanism and compassion; or they will reject it, and opt instead for perpetual fear, and eternal militarism.

It is a positive gesture, it seems to me, that PLO leader Yasser Arafat should repeat this week that the PLO is prepared to negotiate with Israel on the basis of all United Nations resolutions on Palestine, including U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Instead of brushing aside such overtures, Israeli and American leaders would do well to respond in an equally rational, conciliatory and moderate manner. The Palestinians and the rest of the Arabs have clearly signalled their willingness to come to terms with the reality of Israel, at the same moment as the Palestinians have reaffirmed — with stones and burning tyres — that Israel can only hope to live as a normal state if it, too, comes to terms with the requisites of Palestinian national rights.

The uprising we witness today comes exactly 50 years after the great Palestinian strike of 1936-39. The children throwing stones and burning tyres today are the grand-children of those Palestinians who went on strike in Palestine in 1936-39. Will the world heed the enduring lessons of history — that liberty is indivisible, and a birthright of all peoples — or will the world meekly acquiesce in the show of American and Israeli contempt that seeks to deny the Palestinians the universal right of self-determination and national dignity?

That, in its simplest terms, is the message of the stones. It is the desire of all Palestinians, the political platform of the PLO, and the national objective of all Arab states. Where are the Israelis who would signal to us that they have heard the message, that they can respond, and that they can envisage a future in which both Israelis and Palestinians live in peace, security, sovereignty and dignity in their ancient land?

Israelis, Palestinians debate peace

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

TEL AVIV — After five weeks of violent protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli and Palestinian leaders have begun debating political initiatives to break the Middle East peace deadlock.

The future of Israeli rule over 1.5 million hostile Palestinians in the areas occupied in the 1967 Middle East war looks like being the main issue of Israeli general elections due in November.

There is so far little sign of new ideas on either side.

Despite renewed debate on peace options, most Israelis seem united in rejecting any talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, broke with consensus in the national unity government this weekend by suggesting Israel should seek talks with Jordan through an international peace

conference without waiting for the uprising to end.

"Negotiations while unrest continues is much better than... only (stone-throwing) before the television cameras of the world. The worst thing is unrest without negotiations," he said.

Israelis have shot 39 Palestinians and wounded more than 250 in the uprising which began on December 9.

Both Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud Bloc, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leading Labour Party hawk, have insisted the uprising must be suppressed before there can be any talk of a solution.

Shamir then wants to revive talks on granting limited autonomy to residents of the occupied territories under the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David peace accords.

Shamir and the Likud insist Israel retain sovereignty over the entire area and remain adamantly opposed to an international conference, which they see as a trap to force Israel to hand back occu-

pled Arab land.

Egypt, which broke off the autonomy talks in 1982, and Palestinian leaders have rejected any revival of the defunct negotiations.

Rabin, alternating stern warnings to the Palestinians with offers of eventual negotiations, said he hoped the uprising would throw up a new local Palestinian leadership that would take up the challenge of peace talks with Israel.

He was rebuffed at the weekend when the Arab mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, seen by Israelis as an open-minded, moderate, insisted Israel must talk to the PLO.

"The PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and any local leaders will be rejected by the Arab governments, by the Arab people all over the world and they will be considered as collaborators, so the idea of having a local leadership is really not a possibility," he said.

Freij called for "an immediate, courageous and generous Israeli

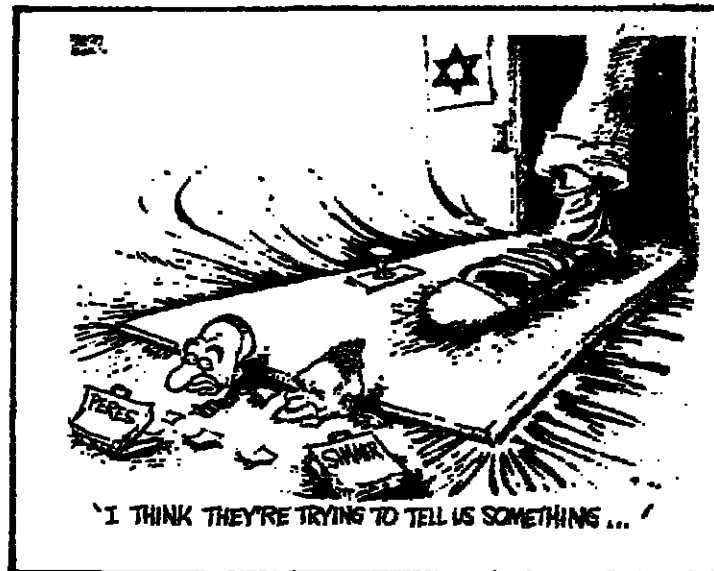
offer for real peace, because there is a consensus among the Palestinian people, the Jordanians and Israel and all else, almost, to make peace with Israel."

He said negotiations would be based on exchanging territory for peace under U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 calling for secure borders for all Middle East states and urging Israel to withdraw from territories captured in the 1967 war.

Mavericks in both major Israeli parties have seized on the latest unrest to call for radical solutions to the future of the occupied territories.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat stunned Likud colleagues by urging that Israel negotiate to return the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights to Jordan and Syria, keeping only Arab East Jerusalem.

His call followed efforts by a handful of peace activists on Likud's central committee, led by Moshe Amirav, to explore direct peace talks with the PLO, round-



ly condemned by Shamir.

Labour cabinet minister Ezer Weizman, one of the architects of the Israeli-Egyptian peace, has demanded immediate talks to prepare an international conference with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation he says could include supporters of the PLO.

"The situation is so grim, something good must come out of

it. If we are not careful, we will have to face much worse upheavals," Weizman told the Jerusalem Post.

"If we manage to get a peace offensive going, some of the Arab leaders may be able to intervene with the Arab youngsters and quiet them down on the grounds that their future is being discussed."

Sale of Saudi wheat to the East signals political shift

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has started selling wheat to the Soviet Union and China in a move which Western diplomats see as signalling a gentle thawing of Riyadh's anti-communist stance.

As Moscow and, to a lesser extent, Peking step up political involvement in the volatile Gulf, Saudi Arabia has been quietly forging contacts with a series of behind the scenes talks and trade deals.

Wheat seems an unlikely diplomatic weapon for a desert kingdom and the world's number one oil exporter.

But vast tracts of land have been transformed by irrigation and, spurred by massive subsidies, the kingdom's farmers now produce nearly three times more wheat than the country needs.

With silos bursting at their seams, a sales drive was first aimed at Asia and Europe, but shipments have now started to two of Saudi Arabia's traditional ideological foes.

"The Saudis seem to be taking a pragmatic approach by emphasising economic cooperation so that relations can develop in a natural way," said one Western diplomat.

The Soviet Union was in fact the first state to recognise King Abdul Aziz back in 1926 as ruler of the Nejd and Hejaz regions of what is now modern Saudi Arabia.

But the flirtation with Moscow petered out and in 1938 the Soviet ambassador was ordered out of the country.

To this day, the two nations have not resumed diplomatic relations. The Saudi monarchy, which invests part of its oil wealth in holy Islamic cities Mecca and Medina, and communist Moscow appear to be worlds apart over politics and religion.

Washington has taken over the role as Riyadh's main ally, although U.S. backing for Israel

in the Middle East has always lent an uncomfortable air to that relationship.

Riyadh has never had diplomatic relations with communist China, but recently sold Peking 300,000 tonnes of wheat. And last week it announced the shipment of 25,000 tonnes to the Soviet Union as part of a 50,000 tonne deal.

Diplomats say the sales can be

partly explained by harsh economic realities — Saudi Arabia is each year producing about 2.3 million tonnes of wheat and with domestic consumption no more than 900,000 tonnes is desperately seeking export markets.

With so much excess production on their hands and silo capacity limited, the kingdom's planners are under pressure to sell before the new harvest is

gathered in March.

Wheat traders in London reckon Saudi wheat, hard and flint-like, could sell for around \$90 per tonne from Saudi ports, broadly in line with world market prices.

But that recoups only a fraction of the true cost of over \$500 per tonne which subsidies cost the Saudi government.

Diplomats say sales appear to be part of a deliberate policy of

building ties with Moscow and Peking at a time when American credibility in the Middle East has taken a severe knock over the Iran-contra arms scandal.

The Soviet Union has already launched a major diplomatic offensive in the region, helping to ship Kuwait's oil exports in chartered tankers.

Firm signs that the Soviet Union will withdraw troops from

Afghanistan could also remove a stumbling block in relations since Riyadh is a major backer of Mujahedin rebels.

China's sale of Silkworm missiles to Iran — another of Saudi Arabia's traditional foes in the region — has led to U.N. pressure on Peking to halt deliveries and diplomats believe Saudi Arabia has also added its voice to those pleas.

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السلامة والسلامة

Najwa Najjar sums up the thoughts of Nawal Saadawi (right)

"I WAS committed to what I thought was right, and I was dismissed from my work, my books were censored and I was put in jail. They tried to ruin my reputation. When I supported women they said I loved women, when I supported men they said I loved men. They branded me immoral, hysterical and neurotic."

These are the words of the leading and controversial Egyptian writer and feminist, Nawal Saadawi. Here, she contends, is an experience shared by many committed to the cause of women in a male dominated society.

In a recent trip to Jordan, Dr. Saadawi, a specialist in mental and public health by profession, stressed that such risks must be taken by those who want to induce change. "No change is devoid of sacrifices, and many obstacles will be placed in the way by those who benefit from the status quo."

A founding member and president of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association, a non-governmental organisation affiliated with the United Nations, Dr. Saadawi pointed out that although women make up half the population, their causes have not received their due attention over hundreds of years because "women lack the power to overcome the dominating patriarchal system."

Dr. Saadawi believes that the evolution of oppression came hand in hand with the evolution of the patriarchal class system. "A system marked by the supremacy of man is another form of oppression," she said, noting that political groups in the Arab World which call for the liberation of societies, have not fathomed the patriarchal class system. "Political groups concerned with class oppression of the peasants and working class, give only lip service to the liberation of women and have relegated their issues to a secondary position. They have not realised that the patriarchal system not only oppresses women, but also men

"We pay anyway to be wives, so why not pay and be free?"

who do not belong to the ruling class."

She maintains that the oppression of men is similar to the oppression of women. The only difference is that in addition to being oppressed politically, economically, socially and culturally, women are oppressed in the family.

Since the authority in the marriage institution rests in the hands of the male members of the family or clan, in most marriages the man possesses the woman while the woman does not possess the man. It becomes his right to own her mind in that she must follow what he says, and her body in that no one else can touch her.

She points out that women are not allowed to keep their male



A pebble in a stagnant lake

friends after they get married, and are only allowed to associate with women. "To have men friends does not mean you have sex with them, but it is the woman's right to have men friends."

"A woman is not only a body, or someone to work for her husband and children; and marriage is not supposed to be the woman's only ambition in life, but rather that man and marriage are part of the woman's life," stated Dr. Saadawi.

In a separate lecture delivered at the invitation of the Arab Women Graduates Club, Dr. Saadawi said that marriage should be built on truth, choice and independence and most importantly equality.

However, as a rule most women love a man because men provide them with security, she explained, adding that marriages built on material or financial values are not sound marriages. To her "love is an exchange of thoughts and emotions... knowing someone."

"How can you live with someone who is a stranger? You should know if he is just or if he is tyrant. If you are convinced of this person's thinking and personality then get married or else marriage becomes a process of buying and selling," she advised a packed hall at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation earlier this month.

Women must also teach men how to be fathers. "Usually the husband has power, but has no responsibility for his wife or children. He may after 20 years of marriage find someone younger or prettier than his wife, and divorce her leaving her with nothing."

Working to change the status quo will not be an easy task because "our society is not used to differences in opinions or dis-

"A woman is not only a body, or someone to work for her husband and children; and marriage is not supposed to be the woman's only ambition in life, but rather that man and marriage are part of the woman's life."

agreements." However, Dr. Saadawi believes that building strength to overcome the patriarchal system comes through knowledge and solidarity, stressing that this kind of maturity does not happen overnight.

"It is a step by step process which must start with self liberation," she stated. According to Dr. Saadawi "through reading and being creative, women could find ways to free themselves from the domination of the fathers, mothers, teachers and from the image created for them by society."

"She suggests for women to discuss instead of just obeying. No one is above criticism, and the criticism must start with ourselves," she said.

When women take the first step in seeing themselves as complete human beings, the image of themselves, their value systems, attitudes, even the way a woman dresses will change, she said. This would give women the courage to do in public what they do in secret and not live contradictory lives.

In a later interview Dr. Saadawi referred to her own personal experience. Divorced twice, and married three times, she stated emphatically that she was willing to be single all her life rather than being an oppressed successful wife. "We pay anyway to be wives, so why not pay and be

free?" she asks.

She said more than most for her beliefs when the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat tried to silence her by putting her in prison. Regardless, Dr. Saadawi said she had no regrets.

"Sadat was not pleased with my articles and speeches to the U.N. on his open door policy and unemployment and how women have been forced out of the labour force, but I'm so committed to what I've done, that I was sure that when I leave jail I would continue my work and whatever I am going to write about it will be against the male dominated patriarchal system, that is against the present system."

Her book *Memoirs in Prison* describes her experience in prison which she said enlightened her. For "in prison there is a lot of room for evaluation of life and finding the essence of personality. Some people regret and apologise, and end up losing themselves or succumbing to mental diseases, while others find their mistakes and correct them."

She was released from prison after serving three months when Sadat was assassinated.

Dr. Saadawi considers her experience in prison as another notch in widening her knowledge, and consequently giving her more power. The support that women give other women in their struggle to liberate themselves is another form of power. Citing the example of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association, established in Egypt in 1982 with branches throughout the Arab World, she said "when you have unity you have power. You can make women think and rethink."

Although most of the members of the association are women, twenty per cent of those registered are men. "Mental attitudes and commitment to overthrowing the patriarchal system is what is

"Through reading and being creative, women could find ways to free themselves from the domination of the fathers, mothers, teachers and from the image created for them by society."

important to us," she said, adding "we are historical, social feminists. We depend on our history; we are against class, and should not distinguish class oppression and patriarchal oppression."

The association tries through seminars and conferences, joint projects with UNESCO, a small feminist publishing house, a feminist theatre and the newly published magazine *Women of the Future* "to change the woman's picture of herself. Society has taught us to live for others, now we want to live for ourselves," she said.

Understanding reality was pointed out as another important step towards change. The difference between being a revolutionary and a madperson was emphasised by Dr. Saadawi. "A revolutionary understands reality, a madperson does not." For example some revolutionaries prefer not to deal with religion or deny it completely. Religion is part of the social reality whether there is belief in God or not, she said, adding: "Everyone has a different way of looking at Islam and of explaining religion for their purposes, and I explain religion for my benefit." She believes that religion advocates equality and social justice between people.

Once reality is understood, step by step change becomes easier. However, Dr. Saadawi stressed that success in work plays an important role in encouraging women to take the step and to speak out for their rights. "I did not collapse or develop mental diseases because I was protected, and my protection came from the strength I had built by educating myself; ceaseless work and learning from others, in addition to success in

"Only when you take yourself, your job and your cause seriously, and only then will people take you seriously."

medicine, writing and women organisations," she said.

Even those who stood against Dr. Saadawi respected her. "Only when you take yourself, your job and your cause seriously, and only then will people take you seriously." For those women who do not work, Dr. Saadawi advised them to struggle, to pursue their education and to find work.

Dr. Saadawi considers the controversies which surrounded her as positive since "our society is like a stagnant lake, you have to throw pebbles in to stir it." She believes that if everyone approves of you, you are not saying anything. We must have people with and against us to have change."

Safer childhood: Two powerful influences

Peter Adamson, collaborating author of UNICEF's *The State of the World's Children*, discusses children's prospects for survival and growth in the latest issue of *People*, the population and development magazine of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The following feature has been extracted from his article.

EVERY week, a quarter of a million young children are dying in the developing world from frequent infection and poor nutritional health. That this is a tragedy for individual families goes without saying. That it is a tragedy for development is almost as obvious: For there is a clear connection between the mental and physical development of children and the social and economic development of their societies.

The issue of the ill-health, poor growth, and early death of so many millions of children has attracted a multitude of detailed studies in recent years. In particular, research has sought to determine the factors which are most closely and consistently correlated with child deaths and child health. The picture which emerges is unusually steady and clear.

In almost all developing countries, it appears that the two most powerful determinants of a child's chances of survival and normal, healthy growth are the educational level of its mother and the length of the interval between births. In many studies, these two factors have been found, surprisingly, to be even more strongly correlated with child health than family income itself.

It comes as no surprise to learn that child health and survival rises with the level of the mother's education. But it has usually been assumed that education was simply an indicator of the family's social and economic level and that it was this, rather than education itself, which was the real determinant of children's well-being. But research in, for example, Nigeria and Kenya has pointed out that, far from being just a proxy for income, female education is a powerful lever, in its own right, for raising levels of child health.

"The evidence on the significance of the relationship is unequivocal," concludes a World Bank review of many such studies. "Maternal education is closely related to child health whether measured by nutritional status or infant and child mor-

tality."

Common sense suggests several obvious explanations. An educated mother is clearly more likely to be well-informed about such life and death issues as antenatal care, tetanus injections, family planning, breast-feeding, immunisation, the special food needs of the young child, and preventing and coping with illness.

But just as important, education tends to impart an awareness of choice, a belief that decisions can be made, and circumstances changed. An educated woman is more likely to know about the outside world and make demands on it. More likely, for instance, to seek out a doctor or a health worker.

The other factor which has been most closely and consistently related to child health is the number and timing of births. Specifically, it has been shown that the health risk to both mother and child is significantly increased if the space between births is less than two years, if the total number of births to one woman is more than five, and if the age of the mother is less than 18 or more than 35.

"If no mother gave birth within two years of a previous birth," concluded the recent World Fertility Survey, "this alone would reduce the infant mortality by at least 15 per cent." A World Bank investigation has gone further, estimating that avoiding births within two years of a previous birth could reduce infant mortality by up to 25 per cent in most Third World countries.

In some areas with very high rates of infant mortality, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, children born within two years of a previous birth are two-and-a-half times more likely to die in childhood than babies born after an interval of four years or more. The World Fertility study in Bangladesh, for example, reported that: "In summary, the strongest determinants of infant and child mortality in rural Bangladesh are the length of the previous interval and the birth order of the child."

Many studies in the last 10

years have shown that birth-spacing can also protect growth as well as save lives. One survey in Thailand found a 70 per cent malnutrition rate among children who were less than two years old when a brother or sister was born, against a rate of 37 per cent among those who did not yet have a younger sibling.

The reasons for the powerful correlations between birth-spacing and child health are obvious. Becoming pregnant when the last-born child is under the age of two often means that breast-feeding ends too abruptly and that the often difficult and risky process of weaning is not given the priority it deserves. Usually, also, there is a fall-off in the general level of attention and priority given to a child who is still vulnerable and in need of a great deal of care and attention.

But probably an even more important factor is the effect of too many or too frequent births on the health and well-being of mothers. Repeated pregnancy and breast-feeding, with insufficient recovery time in between, depletes a mother's health and strength. Often the result is babies of low birthweight. And although affecting only about 20 per cent of all births in the developing world, low birth-weights are associated with around 40 per cent of all infant deaths.

Finally, the sheer difficulty of looking after two or more very small children means that few mothers can do the job as well as they would like, especially when the job attracts little in the way of moral or practical support from society in general and men in particular. Breast-feeding, preparing good weaning foods, frequent feeding, getting children immunised, keeping food and water and homes clean, monitoring growth, coping with diarrhoeal diseases — all make heavy demands on a mother's time and energy.

Thus the two greatest determinants of a child's chances of survival and normal, healthy growth — apart from the factor of where in the world that particular child happens to be born — are connected with the rights and the well-being of women. For education and birth-spacing are powerful ways of reducing the burdens of women and of enhancing their ability to cope with those burdens.

Britons abroad branded scoundrels, freeloaders and hooligans

By Deborah Telford
Reuters

LONDON — Whatever happened to the Englishman abroad, that gentlemanly diplomat for his country and model to the rest of the world of good British manners?

"Hooligans," "scoundrels," "freeloaders," "comedians" and drug traffickers have upstaged him as the standard bearers of

British behaviour overseas, according to Britain's Foreign Office, usually known more for its art of understatement.

Foreign Office Minister Tim Eggar recently warned that such groups made up a "dangerous minority" of British tourists and could increasingly damage the country's name as travel overseas continued to grow, with more Britons going further afield in 1988 than their package-tour favourites of Spain and Greece.

Eggar called a press conference to announce that from this year, often hard-pressed consulates have been told to say "no" to undeserving people, or make them a low priority so they can help people in real need.

The scoundrels think consuls are part-time bank managers, travel agents, or simply nannies. Eggar said. The freeloaders think the taxpayer should subsidise their globetrotting.

The hooligans, including some football supporters, deliberately set out to make trouble. And the comedians are so-called because the instinctive response to their requests is "you must be joking," Eggar said.

In 1987 such requests included asking consular officials to repatriate a dying dog, provide the latest stock market prices, and, at 4 a.m., check a soccer cup final score.

The image of the Briton abroad remains badly tarnished after 39 people died when soccer fans rioted at Brussels' Heysel stadium before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in 1985.

In Spain and Greece, which hosted over a third of the 27 million Britons who travelled overseas last year, it is often of beer-swilling, rowdy people who spend less than other tourists and want their holiday resorts to be hot versions of home.

The image fits the domestic profile of the average Briton at home who is outlined in the government handbook "Britain 1988" as a lager-drinking, television addict eating take-away food.

"We can't change the image of the Brit in general," Eggar told Reuters in an interview. "What I think we can try to do is to discourage the really bad tiny minority and to make it quite clear that we will not support them and that they are not part of modern Britain."

He said that because their country was an island Britons

were still less accustomed than nationalities such as the French and Germans to crossing into another country for short periods.

The average Briton travelling abroad on a package tour for the first time, "gets plunked in a hotel where English is widely spoken and he really thinks that he's in part of the U.K. and forgets that he's in a different country with different laws," Eggar said.

He said consuls had to deal with people who had been brought up with the attitude of automatically turning to the state for help if they were in trouble. "I think that perhaps we've been guilty," he said.

Not enough to educate... and perhaps we have tended to bend over backwards where other countries may be would take a rather more hands off attitude," he said.

The number of Britons travelling overseas has increased nearly six fold in the past 20 years and is continuing to rise.

But the Foreign Office has deliberately decided against increasing its full time consular services, even in Turkey, which is joining the Perennials Spain, Greece, the Canary Islands and Portugal as a popular destination.

"It is simply to say that just because you decide to develop an area as a tourist area do not expect that we can move the resources in," Eggar said.

Charges for consular services will also be revised yearly from now instead of every three years, Eggar said.

"Why should the perfectly reasonable British citizen travelling abroad... effectively subsidise the yobbo," he said.

While the government and tour operators are quick to defend British tourists as generally being no better or worse behaved than other nationalities, Eggar said there were larger numbers of Britons involved in drug trafficking abroad compared with other nationalities.

Of the British nationals currently imprisoned overseas, 872 or 56 per cent have been jailed for drug offences, many in Spain, and their numbers are increasing, he said.

Spain is also co-operating with Britain to try to extradite cliques of wanted British criminals, who have settled in the Costa del Sol, dubbed the "Costa del crime." They are avoiding arrest at home and are now thought to be involved in crime rackets there.

Syria's ancient Turkish baths a haven for modern aches

By Hala Jaber
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Steam coils through the tiled chambers of the old Turkish baths of Damascus as muscular attendants soap and pummel the backs of their willing victims.

When the chill of the Syrian winter starts to bite, the ancient baths still beckon tired workers to a warm haven where they can relax aching, knotted muscles.

The public steam-rooms, built when few private houses had bathrooms, are even popular with mothers hunting brides for their sons and they are used as venues for stag and hen parties.

Hundreds of Turkish baths, some dating from the 18th century, still operate in Syria and provide a service fit for a king of old — or for the princes who still come.

"The minute you walk in you feel you have entered another world, that of folklore, tradition, relaxation, warmth and cleanliness," said Ziad Sqelli, 25, a frequent visitor.

Bright and colourful Syrian carpets and antique brasswork adorn the public baths and the old wooden benches are covered with hand-made rugs.

The ritual begins with a choice of soap and a fibrous loofah made of horse-tail.

The bather strips in the *barani* (salon), an outer chamber, and enters the world of steam in the inside chamber, the *jowani*.

Vision blurs as clouds of steam fill the chamber and the body slips into sensations of relaxation, warmth and drowsiness.

"You can feel your body perspire, your muscles relax and your pores open wider to let out accumulated dirt that can not otherwise be cleaned or seen," Sqelli added.

After the session in the steam room, which often echoes to old Arabic songs cheerily bellowed out by young men, the customer is taken to a small chamber like a cubicle and handed over to the *muallim* or master.

The *muallim* sits opposite on the warm, tiled floor and begins to scrub, pummel, rub and squeeze the body with the fibrous loofah, while buckets of hot steamy water from stone basins are poured over the bather.

The *muallim*, leaning on a pile of cushions, manipulates the back, starting from the neck and slowly moving downwards, as he massages the client's aching muscles.

"The feeling is sensational, sometimes the sponge hurts as its fibres bite into your body," Khaled Walid said after a bath. "But you can feel each pore, cell and muscle in your body come alive as your blood seeps through the veins from the vigorous scrubbing," he said.

The bather is next gently sponged with foaming soap and his hair washed about seven times before he goes back to the *barani*.

Wrapped from head to foot in dry towels, he lies on a bench sipping hot tea, coffee, herbal or soft drinks until his body temperature returns to normal.

The whole procedure costs up to 50 Syrian pounds — two dollars.

The Turkish public baths catered for the rich as well as the workers and are still patronised, though less often, by Syrian officials, Western diplomats and foreign tourists.

"We still get princes from Gulf countries, Syrian and other Arab ministers, and foreign diplomats," said the manager of Nour El Dine Turkish bath in the old Damascus Bzourieh Souq. "The foreigners range from di-

plomats of the European embassies in Damascus to troops from the United Nations."

Although women's Turkish baths have the same character and services as the men's, the ladies have their own social rituals.

They visit for an outing or to socialise with friends and neighbours and will spend much of the

day chatting and catching up on the latest gossip.

On such occasions the women take packed lunches which they spread in the *barani* and share together. Births and weddings also provide excuses for a social gathering at the baths.

Mothers seeking a wife for their sons go to the Turkish baths to scrutinise a range of girls para-

ding naturally, and study their behaviour, manners and movement.

The Nour Al Dine manager said although scores of baths still exist, many are threatened with closure because they deteriorated and there is a lack of finance to keep them going.

Private businessmen or Syria's ministry of tourism have taken

over and renovated some.

"Although now most homes have bathrooms and the public baths can no longer exist just for that specific service, many people still love them and they are regarded by the younger generation as social clubs," Ziad Sqelli said.

"They represent part of Syria's history and tradition and should be maintained."

Cyprus figurine is find of the decade

By Katherine McElroy
Reuters

NICOSIA — A newly-discovered prehistoric figurine of a woman giving birth, described by archaeologists as Cyprus's find of the decade, shows there was organised religion in the Mediterranean 5,000 years ago.

"It's a find of exceptional importance for the development of religion and society of the old world," said Edgar Peltenburg of Edinburgh University, director of the dig in western Cyprus.

It may also link emerging religion in the island's prehistory with the great cult of the love goddess Aphrodite that thrived some 2,500 years later in classical times.

The 5,000-year-old pottery figurine was found with 18 others inside or near a model of a building uncovered recently by archaeologists from the Scottish University.

The 15-cm figurine depicts a woman seated on a birth stool with the painted head and hands of a child emerging from between her legs.

"What I think this find does is show that there were special buildings set aside for birth, associated with rituals," Peltenburg said. "This is one way in which

religion started to emerge as a separate institution in society as distinct from magic and so forth, which was never institutionalised."

He said that while the model building could represent a birth hut, evidence of rites attached to it indicated religion in the making.

The dig in the middle of a banana plantation on the coastal plain will continue this summer. It is funded by the National Geographic Magazine and the British Academy.

The model building is of pottery with a doorway, fireplace and internal partitions, and is identical to one of the buildings excavated on the site.

Peltenburg said the wall of the full-size building may have been deliberately pushed over and that part of the site abandoned immediately afterwards.

He said archaeologists did not know why the people would leave what was prosperous settlement containing the largest prehistoric buildings found in Cyprus.

"We're thinking along the lines that this was all part of a closure ceremony, and people came and communally perhaps deposited these items before leaving."

"They were borken, some of them were smeared so you couldn't see the decoration on

them... The very fact they would break and smear them suggests they did in fact have significance, that they did symbolise certain supernatural powers," Peltenburg said.

"We're very seldom in a position to talk of an event in prehistory, here we can see a communal ceremony... in which the objects were deconsecrated, taken out of circulation, buried deliberately, never more to be unearthed."

The figurine, Peltenburg said, did not give a realistic portrayal of birth, but was a symbol of the idea of birth.

"She is not in pain... The same as others we have got that are not so explicit, but we know they are in childbirth. Nor is it a doll, it's much too cumbersome."

Peltenburg said the find showed that there was religious organisation in the Mediterranean some 1,000 years earlier than had previously been thought. It also gave some insight into society in what is known as the Chalcolithic period of Cyprus which lacks written records.

"We're talking about communal ritual activity of some kind in which quite clearly the female in society is playing a most important role, given the fact that all the figurines, except one, can be regarded as female," he said.

"I think that is important for a

society which we have no evidence, for example, of any weapons. That comes later in the Bronze Age," he said.

"In the subsequent period when there is evidence of males becoming dominant, you have weaponry right away... like spearheads, big daggers, knives."

Described by the Cyprus antiquities department as the find of the decade, the dig also points to a link with later religious development on the island.

"Even though we lack critical pieces of the jigsaw puzzle... there's no denying that there existed in the mists of prehistory an exceptionally strong fertility cult in the west of Cyprus where Aphrodite's cult later became so strong."

"It answers why Aphrodite's cult situated itself where it did... To my knowledge there is no concentration of female figurines in the Mediterranean that matches the concentration in the west of Cyprus," Peltenburg said.

"Archaeology has always had a figurine found here, a peculiar building found there. What we've got here is at last certain types of figurines and a certain type of model of a certain type of building, which we've excavated, found together..."

"Suddenly we can put things together," he said.

Seoul appeals to N. Korea, Cuba to reconsider stand on Olympics

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean Olympic Committee Monday appealed to North Korea and its close ally Cuba to abandon their boycott of this summer's games.

The appeal came despite deteriorating relations between North and South Korea last week accused Pyongyang of destroying one of its airliners with 115 people on board.

It put an alleged North Korean spy on television to confess to planting a bomb on the plane last November, and has launched a diplomatic offensive to punish Pyongyang.

But Olympic committee chief Kim Chong-Ha said in a statement: "We particularly call on North Korea and Cuba to change their positions even now and participate in the Seoul Olympics to help realise the hopes and dreams of mankind to make the world one family."

The committee's appeal came despite expiry of the deadline for Olympic acceptance at midnight Geneva time Sunday.

A record 161 countries have

accepted invitations to the games, which begin next September. Albania, Ethiopia, Nicaragua

IOC door still open

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Monday the door was still open for North Korea to accept an IOC compromise and attend the Seoul Olympics.

Samaranch told a news conference that a record 161 countries had met the IOC's deadline of Sunday midnight for accepting invitations to the Seoul Games, which open in September.

Samaranch said: "The IOC still hopes to reach an agreement with North Korea. One door has been closed with the January 17 deadline. But we will be happy to reopen the door as soon as North Korea accepts our offer."

and the Seychelles are the only other members of the 167-member IOC not to accept the invitation to Seoul.

"The Seoul Olympic Games will become a great festival of harmony for all humanity, transcending political ideologies and helping end wars, disputes and conflicts," Kim said.

Pyongyang announced a boycott of the games because of talks on making it a co-host broke down.

Last Friday Cuban President Fidel Castro said his country would not attend the games because the political turmoil in

South Korea "would not offer the healthiest and most honourable conditions for Olympic Games."

Meanwhile, Cuba's athletes expressed support for Havana's decision to stay away from the Olympic Games in Seoul in a letter to President Fidel Castro published in a government newspaper Sunday.

"We, the athletes that make up the national sports' preselection, meeting in general assembly, firmly back the decision adopted by our government and Olympic committee to not attend the Olympic Games in Seoul if the present conditions persist."

Paris-Dakar rally marred by another serious crash

BAMAKO, Mali (R) — The Paris-Dakar motor Rally, its future clouded after a heavy death and accident toll, was marred by another serious accident during a timed stage across western Mali.

Jean-Claude Huger, one of French President Francois Mitterrand's motorbike escort who is riding for a national police team

in the rally, crashed his BMW bike Sunday during the 378-km special stage between Timbuktu and Bamako, organisers said.

They said Huger was in a deep coma after the accident and would be flown back to Paris during the evening.

The 31-year-old Huger was 30th in the motorcycle standings

Graf cruises into open play-offs

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — World No. 1 Steffi Graf continued her juggernaut run through the \$1.9-million Australian Open tennis championships Monday. Australian Anne Minter crushed fourth-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States.

Graf, of West Germany, took just 55 minutes to defeat 13th-seeded Swede Catarina Lindqvist 6-0, 7-5 to advance to the quarter-finals of the first Grand Slam event of the year.

Graf, playing at whirlwind pace, took just 16 minutes to breeze through the first set, but Lindqvist put up sterner resistance in the second.

The 18-year-old Graf, aiming for her first Australian title, later admitted she sometimes becomes bored when she wins easily. She has dropped just 13 games in

her opening four matches. Graf, the hardest hitter in women's tennis, now will play two-time titlist and defending champion Hana Mandlikova of Australia.

Minter, 24, ranked 38th in the world, took just 61 minutes to dispatch Shriver, who had won warm-up tournaments in Brisbane and Sydney earlier in the month, but found her movement restricted by a recurring groin strain.

Jordan's soccer team blanks UAE

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national soccer team blanked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) team 2-0 Monday in a friendly match in Manama, Bahrain.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hugging fine in Paris

LONDON (R) — Hugging is fine in France but contact in Britain and Ireland will not start until after the opening whistle in rugby union's five nations competition. The five nations committee wanted to ban the tradition of players gathering in a circle and embracing while the national anthems are played but after French resistance it was ruled on Sunday that rugby players can carry on hugging — in Paris. "The habit has become universal in recent seasons, but we felt it was an inappropriate way to behave during the anthems," said Bob Weighall, secretary of the five nations committee. "But we were unable to convince the French federation, which say that their crowd expected their players to gather in a circle and their players wanted to do so. So, as they run matches in Paris, players can hug there, but in Britain and Ireland there will be a formal line-up." The annual five nations competition, which began on Saturday, is contested by France, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Pate winner in golf tourney

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — Steve Pate of the United States was declared the winner of golf's Tournament of Champions Sunday after a series of rain squalls washed out the fourth round and reduced play to 54 holes. Compatriot Dave Hill, who led through three rounds of the seniors' competition of this event that brings together only the winners of 1987 PGA tour titles, also was named the winner of the over-50 section of the tournament. Play had been delayed four times, once by hail, before Mike Shea of the PGA and Alvaro Roca, tournament chairman for host La Costa, cancelled the final round. Only 12 men in the total field of 50 had completed play when the round was washed out. All Sunday scores were erased. That made Pate, who had a one-shot lead at the end of Saturday's third round, the winner of the \$90,000 first prize. Hill won \$30,000 off his one-shot lead at the end of three rounds.

English club to sign Soviet defender

LONDON (AP) — English First Division club Oxford United is bidding to become the first team from this country to hire a Soviet player by signing international defender Vladimir Besonov. Oxford manager Maurice Evans has reportedly had talks with Soviet soccer representatives about the 29-year-old Dynamo Kiev player who he hopes to bring to England for a fee of around £250,000. "Prices for good players here are sky high at the moment and the plus about continental stars is that you get value for money and they are available now," Evans said. "We need to look abroad for find real quality and Russian players are becoming more readily available now. The Russians have tremendous technical ability but the problem is watching them so I have asked Besonov to come over for a month for me to have a look at him." Besonov, who played in the Mexico World Cup finals in 1986, has won more than 60 international caps.

Hearing into drug case appeal begins

LONDON (AP) — Swiss runner Sandra Gasser began her appeal Monday into a two-year international for alleged drug abuse, and one of her party said there were "important points to raise." "I cannot say how the meeting will go," Swiss Track Federation (STF) Secretary Hansjoerg Wirtz told the Associated Press. "We will present our case and see what happens. But, as we have always said, we have important points to raise." The hearing was taking place at the London headquarters of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) the world governing body for track and field. It was expected to last well into the afternoon. Gasser's case against the ban followed her positive drug test at the World Track and Field Championships last summer where she placed third in the 1,500 metres final in Rome. The IAAF annulled her bronze medal and barred her after finding traces of the banned steroid, methyltestosterone, in two urine samples. The middle distance runner, in a civil suit filed in October, sought a court injunction lifting the ban. Just before Christmas, a Bern judge gave her permission to run.

Badminton champs richest ever

LONDON (AP) — The All-England badminton championships became the richest event in the sport's history Monday, when organisers signed a million-pound (\$1.77 million) deal with the sponsors. The five-year agreement between the badminton Association of England and the Japanese sports equipment firm, Yonex, includes a 350 per cent increase in prize money to £70,000 (\$124,000) for the event, staged each year at the Wembley arena. The men's singles champion will earn £5,500 (\$9,700) while the women's champion will take home £3,500 (\$6,200) at the next championships from March 14-20. Officials said the remainder of the money will cover administrative and promotional costs.

Kvernmo wins Houston Marathon

HOUSTON (R) — Norway's Geir Kvernmo pulled away from the pack after 21 kilometres and held off a strong challenge from Salvador Garcia of Mexico to win the 16th annual Houston Marathon. Kvernmo, runner-up last year to South African Derrick May, qualified for the Norwegian Olympic team with a time of two hours 11 minutes 44 seconds. Garcia was second just six seconds behind in 2:11:50 and Michael Scheytt of West Germany finished third in 2:14:15.

Teams clash in U.S. college basketball confrontation

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Gaines scored 23 points and Reggie Cross had 18 points and nine rebounds as Hawaii upset New Mexico in a Western Athletic Conference game.

Dave Hollums scored two baskets to put Hawaii in front 75-72.

No. 13 Illinois 103, Tennessee 79

Nick Anderson scored 21 points Sunday in the Illini's 103-79 rout of Tennessee. Kendall Hill added 19 points. Ken Battle had 17 and three other players were in double figures.

Connecticut 51, No. 14 Syracuse 50

Phil Gamble's 3-pointer with 1:11 left tied the score 50-50 and Cliff Robinson went to line for two shots with two seconds left. Robinson missed the first shot at hit the second for Connecticut's only lead of the game.

Kansas St. 69, No. 11 Oklahoma 62

Mitch Richmond's 33 points led Kansas State over Oklahoma in a big eight game, handing the Sooners their second straight loss. The Sooners, who had been averaging 112 points per game, lost Monday night to Louisiana State 84-77.

Maryland 72, No. 9 Duke 69

Derick Lewis' Slam Dunk with 24 seconds left broke a 69-69 tie and Randy Archer added a free throw for the final margin for Maryland.

Boston College, 68, No. 15 Georgetown 66

Dana Barros scored 30 points, including a jumper as time expired, to lead Boston College over Georgetown, 11-3 but 1-2 in the Big East Conference.

Michigan St. 75, Indiana 74

George Papadakos scored with 13 seconds left in overtime to give Michigan State its victory over Indiana, helping knock the Hoosiers out of the top for the first time this season.

No. 1 Arizona 70, Oregon 54

Sean Elliott and Anthony Cook each scored 18 points, leading Arizona to an easy Pacific-10 Conference victory over Oregon. Arizona, 16-1, has won all six of its conference games by no fewer than 16 points.

No. 2 NC Carolina 87, Virginia 62

North Carolina held Virginia to four points in the first five minutes of the second half and used an 11-2 spurt to take a 49-32 lead.

No. 3 Temple 73, St. Bonaventure 63

Mark Macon's 3-pointer with 3:43 left gave temple a 63-59 lead and the Owls pulled away for an Atlantic 10 victory over St. Bonaventure. Macon had 14 of his 21 points in the second half.

No. 4 Kentucky 83, Tennessee 65

Kentucky used a 13-0 run to take a 19-4 lead, then coasted to a Southeastern Conference victory over Tennessee. Rex Chapman led the way with 23 points.

No. 5 Purdue 82, Minnesota 74

Todd Mitchell scored 30 points, including 8-for-8 from the field, and Purdue scored its 14th straight victory by beating Minnesota in the big ten.

No. 6 Pitt 85, Villanova 73

Pittsburgh led by as many as 17 points before holding off Villanova in the big east. Jerome Lane had 17 points for the Panthers.

No. 8 Las Vegas 92, Providence 72

Led by Jarvis Basnight and Gerald Paddio, Nevada-Las Vegas scored the first 11 points of the second half. The Runnin'

Rebels, 14-1, trailed 49-43 when the half started.

No. 10 Iowa St. 123, U.S. International 92

Jeff Grayer had 32 points and a career-high 24 rebounds as Iowa State trounced U.S. international.

Gary Thompkins matched his career high with 21 points for Iowa State, 15-2.

No. 16 Kansas 95, Hampton U. 69

Danny Manning scored 22 points as Kansas won its 55th in a row at Allen Fieldhouse, the longest home winning streak in Division I.

No. 19 Iowa 92, Northwestern 68

Jeff Moe hit three 3-pointers in a 19-0 run in the second half as Iowa overcame a seven-point northwestern lead in winning the big ten game. Moe wound up with 19 points for Iowa, 11-5 and 2-2 in the conference.

Auburn 65, Mississippi St. 57

Auburn went on a 13-0 run with 7:11 left in the first half, erasing a 20-17 Mississippi State lead. John Caylor scored 18 points for Auburn, 10-3 and 3-1 in the Sec.

Broncos versus Browns in Super Bowl showdown

DENVER (AP) — John Elway's third touchdown pass, a 20-yarder to Sammy Winder with 4:01 to play, and a goal-line fumble by Cleveland lifted the Denver Broncos to a 38-33 victory over the Browns Sunday and into their second straight Super Bowl.

The Browns had rallied from an 18-point deficit to tie the score 1-31 but fumbled away a chance to tie it once again on the Denver 2 with about a minute left.

Elway led Denver on a 75-yard, five-play drive, finding Winder on a short pass. Winder broke tackles by Frank Minnifield and Chris Rockins before running into the corner of the end zone for the winning touchdown.

The victory gave Denver its third AFC championship. The

Broncos will play Washington on Jan. 31 in the Super Bowl. The Broncos lost to Dallas in 1978 and the New York Giants last year in previous Super Bowl appearances.

The last team to go to consecutive Super Bowls was the Redskins in 1983 and 1984.

The 75-yard drive was highlighted by a pair of 26-yard passes to rookie Ricky Nattiel. Denver's No. 1 Draft Pick began the drive with a sideline catch over all-pro cornerback Hanford Dixon, then sped across the middle for another long gain to the 20.

Winder scored on the next play.

Cleveland then launched yet another retaliatory drive, but it died at the 2 when Earnest Byner

fumbled. Byner was on his way into the end zone when he was stripped by Jeremiah Castille, who recovered for the Broncos with 1:05 left.

Denver punter Mike Horan ran out of the end zone for a safety with eight seconds to play, giving the Browns their final two points.

The Browns, who trailed 21-3 at halftime and 28-10 in the third quarter, finally tied the score on Webster Slaughter's 4-yard reception 4:12 into the fourth quarter.

After Rich Karlis' 38-yard field goal had given the Broncos a 31-24 lead, Bernie Kosar guided

the Browns 86 yards in nine plays. A 53-yard pass play over the middle to Byner and a 14-yard run by Kevin Mack keyed the drive.

Earlier, Elway threw for two touchdowns, including an 80-yarder to Mark Jackson. That third-quarter broken play was the longest playoff touchdown in Broncos history.

Jackson, whose 5-yard touchdown capped the 98-yard drive to the tying score in last year's AFC championship game, took a 5-yard pass from the scrambling Elway and sped down the sideline, eluding two tacklers.

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on January, 30, and will last for 16 weeks. Two programmes will be offered.

1. The intensive programme in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 140 per term.
2. The regular programme in which classes meet 6 hours per week (5:30-7:10 Saturday, Monday and Wednesday). The fee for these courses is JD 50 per term.

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration between January 23-27, 1988.

Cinema Tel: 677420

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PLAZA

BEVERLY HILLS COP II

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Social Security Corporation lends ministry JD 3 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) will grant JD 3 million to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to help it carry out electrification projects in rural regions of the Kingdom, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the loan will be repaid over six years.

Water storage at King Talal Dam rises to 33m cubic metres

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total amount of water stored at King Talal Dam is estimated at 33.5 million cubic metres, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Mohammad Bani Hani. He was quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily as saying that the total capacity of the reservoir is 80 million cubic metres of water and that in the past four days the reservoir a total of four million cubic metres. The paper quoted Bani Hani as saying that the Wadi Al Arab Dam now stores about 10.5 million cubic metres of water out of a capacity of 20 million cubic metres.

Jordan's consumer price index registers slight drop in 1987

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Statistics has reported a slight drop in Jordan's cost of living index from 130.5 to 130.3 points between the end of Dec. 86 through the end of Dec. 87. The slight drop reflects a stability in commodity prices and a negligible decline in the inflation rate. The department attributed the slight drop to a 0.5 per cent decline in the prices of garments, shoes, housing and rents. The prices of other commodities remained fixed. The cost of living (consumers index) during the month of December, 1987 dropped 1.8 per cent from the same month in 1986, the department said.

Prominent Arab bank launches quarterly economic bulletin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) has just issued the second volume of its bulletin entitled "Economic & Financial Quarterly" which focuses on industrial, financial and commercial activities in various Arab countries. The bilingual Arabic/English quarterly bulletin is distributed on a complimentary and discretionary basis to the bank's clients and other interested parties. Published in London by ABC's International Publications Division, the latest issue of the bulletin examines Jordan's five-year development plan. It also analyses Bahrain's aluminium industry and provides a statistical summary of the domestic economy, external assets/liabilities and external and trade payments of each Arab country. ABC also publishes occasional papers on the Arab banking systems, Arab industrialisation and economic relations with various European and Far Eastern countries. The bulletin analyses Arab economies and current issues of international importance such as the oil industry and the role of the private sector in Arab states. Further information on the bulletin can be obtained from ABC at 1-5 Moorgate, London - England.

Japanese, Western buyers lift less OPEC crude oil

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Hagglings over oil price continues and the amount of OPEC crude being lifted by Japanese and Western buyers is lower than expected in January, an oil newsletter reported Monday. Overall, the respected Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) quoted Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwan Lukman, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as saying current OPEC output is down to between 16 and 16.5 million barrels a day, 2.53 million barrels a day less than the level in the fourth quarter of 1987. MEES said that Kuwait's national oil company was "locked into tough negotiations with its Japanese customers on price terms for contract crude." With some OPEC crude, particularly Iranian, selling at prices well under OPEC-decreed \$18 a barrel, the Japanese buyers are insisting on price concessions. "The Kuwaitis are understood to have felt obliged to examine their price options following widespread market discounting elsewhere, particularly the offering of large volumes of Iranian crude in Europe," the Nicosia-based newsletter said. It said that Idemitsu, the largest Japanese user of Kuwaiti crude, "has served official notice of its decision to terminate its contracts" for 120,000 barrels a day of Kuwait oil, with effect from Jan. 31. MEES said that Abu Dhabi, the largest producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has flatly refused to consider lowering its prices from the OPEC level to market levels. It said that as a result first quarter production in the Gulf emirate could fall sharply from its OPEC-set quota of 800,000.

Two U.S. shareholders in the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Co., Exxon and Mobil have decided to cancel their Abu Dhabi liftings altogether and European shareholders are expected to cut back, it said. In a letter to the foreign shareholder-body, UAE Oil Minister Mana Saied Oteiba said, "we would blame you for any economic damage that may be experienced by the UAE as a result of any measures you may take," MEES said. The letter flatly refused to discuss discounts. "Whoever wishes to pursue our oil, this is our oil. And whoever does not accept, we have no oil for him," it said. Oteiba said the attitude of the companies was "negative" and "would create problems that would spread and affect all."

MEES said Japan and Iran are still negotiating price but in the meantime, despite Iranian price concessions, Japanese purchases for January and February "will fall substantially short of the original target of 242,000 barrels a day." As of now the totals look like 100,000 barrels a day for January and 200,000 for February. MEES said it understands that Nigerian production has fallen from its OPEC-set quota of 1.3 million barrels a day to around one million barrels a day. The newsletter said this is due to buyers unwilling to pay official prices and Nigeria unwilling to offer oil at market-related prices. Earlier this month, the West's International Energy Agency (IEA) said that oil demand is rising faster than previously expected and also suggested that OPEC has lately shown more ability to restrict supply. "To put it very simply, there is less oil sloshing about than many believed there was," IEA oil analyst Marcel Kramer told reporters. An IEA report said revised data showed 50.2 million barrels daily of total world demand in the first three months of 1988, up from a previous estimate of 48.9 million. Forecasts for the period April-September showed similar rises. An IEA official noted that there had so far been no marked firming of prices despite market suspicions last month that IEA demand figures would be revised upwards. But the IEA's figures showed that in December OPEC began curbing the overproduction which has depressed prices. And it said that underlying early 1988 demand for OPEC oil might exceed the level at which the group was producing in December. The Paris-based IEA seeks to coordinate energy policies in 21 industrial nations. It was formed in the 1970s. The IEA December monthly report said it expected that the Third World would be using more oil than previously thought.

Egypt still faces problems with IMF

CAIRO (R) — The "Egypt question" is testing Western governments again — should a poor but strategically vital ally be bailed out, come what may?

Western diplomats report that Egypt, over \$40 billion in debt, is having trouble with some of the economic reforms the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pressed on it. A failure to satisfy the fund could affect future debt rescheduling.

IMF experts start talks in Cairo this week on what diplomats call "misunderstandings" over assessing how Egypt is complying with reforms agreed last May. The experts will scour Egypt's books to see if its plans to curb the budget deficit, cut state subsidies, raise domestic interest rates, and revamp its exchange rate system are on target. IMF should have been given — or refused — a progress report by Oct. 31 in a first review of its performance under a 250 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) (\$325 million) standby credits deal. But disputes over such technical issues as the statistical basis of key indices held up the talks, the diplomats said. Two tranches of credits totalling 44 million SDRs (\$60 million) due in September and December remain unpaid. But the main impact of Egypt's failure to pass the IMF test would be political. Economists say that if the first review remains unconcluded too long, the IMF accord could fall through. With it would go hopes for a further debt rescheduling from next July 1. Egypt is now negotiating rescheduled debt payments with 18 creditor governments for January 1987 to end-of-June 1988. The talks come within a framework drawn up with the Paris Club last May after the IMF agreement was signed.

Cairo has so far agreed about \$4.3 billion worth of rescheduling with five governments — the United States (\$1.6 billion), France (\$1.6 billion), West Germany (\$500 million), Spain (\$400 million) and Austria (\$250 million). Egyptian negotiators are now touring Scandinavian countries and Britain. As soon as relief based on the Paris Club May accord has been finalised, Cairo is certain to apply to reschedule another 18 months' payments due by the end of 1989, diplomats say. "The crucial worry is that without an IMF agreement in place, there can be no guarantee the Paris Club will make further rescheduling this year," one said. Others say the Paris Club will not even listen to Egypt if its IMF programme breaks down. That would deprive Cairo of breathing space as it gropes for long-term solutions in an economy seeking to reconcile a population explosion, too little arable land, a heavy state sector and fickle dollar-earners like oil and tourism. In addition, Egypt's IMF-linked reforms have to satisfy the World Bank in order to unlock project loans totalling over \$500 million, diplomats say. President Hosni Mubarak is expected to press Egypt's case for continuing favoured treatment by Western leaders when he visits Bonn, London, Washington, Paris and Rome from Jan. 25. He is heading West with extra political clout after a tour of Arab allies last week consolidated Egypt's return to the main arena of Arab affairs after eight years on the touchline because of its peace pact with Israel. His tour underscored Egypt's potential role as a military backer to the Gulf Arabs and a counterweight to Iran. There was speculation that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states might pump more aid and investment into Egypt, and possibly write off old debts. Such aid, if confirmed, would help Egypt to weather any rift with the IMF. Western eyes have been riveted on Israel's crisis in the West Bank and Gaza and, by association, its impact on Egypt — the only Arab country pledged to peace with Israel. With Muslim hardliners involved in anti-Israeli protests in Cairo and slogans raised against rising prices, Egypt's message to the West has a new edge. In simple terms it is: "We are an important country, and we need sustained help with our economy if we are to stay stable." Diplomats said Egypt's recent misunderstandings with the IMF included a row over calculating the budget deficit, 5.6 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion), in 1986-87 which ended June 30. IMF target figures are secret. The IMF wants steeper and faster price rises for subsidised goods like bread, petrol and electricity. Cairo has raised them, but they remain well below world levels. The fund wants Egypt to boost interest rates to attract domestic savings and dollars sent home by Egyptians abroad. Rates are currently around 11 to 12 per cent, compared with inflation estimated at 20 to 30 per cent. Most Western governments give Egypt good marks on a key item in the IMF package — steps to unify its pound exchange rates.

In a two-stage devaluation since May, the government has created an officially-sanctioned market rate which bankers set daily and currently about 2.20 pounds to one dollar. Eighty per cent of dealings have been moved to this rate or a "commercial rate," fluctuating towards the market rate and currently over 1.90. The next step, moving transactions still conducted at the commercial rate to the market rate, had been expected in early January — six months ahead of the IMF schedule — but has not yet been announced. Higher prices have hurt pockets long padded by a subsidised economy. The government, sensitive to any hint of unrest, raised public service pay 20 per cent last year and is trying to target increases to the rich and the middle class. In Western treasuries and foreign ministries, help for Egypt is again an active issue. The IMF gave Cairo what economists saw as exceptionally soft terms, and failure to meet even these requirements would test Western resolve. Some experts want to wean Egyptians off subsidised living for their long-term good, even at the risk of unrest. Others want favoured treatment to continue. "Egypt remains a very special case," said one diplomat. "If we want to keep Egypt stable and a factor for stability in the Middle East, we have to accept we have to feed its people." Others worry more about IMF credibility. "If you give a country a soft programme, then say never mind if it doesn't live up to the conditions, there is a genuine fear among some governments for the whole debt programme," one said.

U.S. trade figures relieve financial markets

LONDON (R) — The dollar and shares both rose Monday, but dealers said they were leery of pushing financial markets too far, too fast in response to a sharp drop in the U.S. trade deficit reported on Friday. Shares firmed, London's FTSE 100-share index gained 0.75 per cent to rise above 1,800 and West German shares jumped five per cent. The dollar rose half a pfennig and one-quarter yen from Friday's close in London to trade just below 1.6850 Deutschmarks and 130.50 yen in Europe at midday. It had gone even higher in Asia, but eased off after dealers started having second thoughts about its rapid rise. In Tokyo, the world's biggest market, the Nikkei 225-share average rose 306.55 points, or 1.36 per cent, to end its first trading day since Thursday at 22,910.20. But second thoughts prevailed there, too. The index had soared nearly 508 points in the first 35 minutes of trading and then eased off. "The market was relieved, but there are still people who want to sell," said Tadaaki Uehara, deputy general manager of Wako Securities in Tokyo. "The horizon is not totally clear yet," he added. In Paris, dealers said the government showed its confidence in a rebounding stock market in announcing that its sale of a 51 per cent interest in the arms and electronics firm Matra would go ahead this month. The price of gold, often seen as a haven when other investments weaken, was fixed in London at \$475.85 an ounce, down \$6 from Friday's close. But despite the U.S. report on Friday that its trade deficit for November fell to \$13.22 billion from a record monthly gap of \$17.63 billion in October, investors remained nervous. "Taking the two months together, the picture does not look quite so rosy," a London currency dealer said. Dealers say the stubbornly high U.S. trade deficit, along with an almost equally large budget de-

ficit were at the heart of the crash of 87. The Oct. 14 report of a big August trade gap helped to kick off heavy selling on Wall Street that reached a peak on "Black Monday," Oct. 19, when the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 per cent. Many feel that an American spending spree on imported goods was pushing too many dollars out of the country — far more than people outside the United States wanted to hold. The U.S. government's need for funds soaked up a lot of this money — but in a sluggish world economy, economists argued that that money could have been better spent investing in boosting production of goods. Investors worried that the only way out was recession. So Friday's report of a sharp drop in the trade deficit was good news — the dollar jumped five pfennigs on that news. Monday was Frankfurt's turn. Shares rose five per cent in active trading. Big exporters, especially car firms, posted the largest gains and the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index rose 10.68 points, or 4.15 per cent, to open at 267.73.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your level of originality and ingenuity will be exceptionally high today, so be on the ball and you can achieve very much in many areas. Avoid doing anything dramatic or out of the ordinary tonight.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can use your good ideas to make your business dealings more profitable, so get an early start. If you need a favor, just ask.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you state your aims clearly to a superior, this person can assist you greatly. Don't take any risks where your reputation is concerned.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A short trip can prove quite profitable if you stay alert. Change your attitude toward a superior and receive many benefits in the future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Use a more modern system and become more efficient at your work. A special talent you possess can earn you more money.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Take your mate along for an amusement with friends, but be sure you know the cost beforehand or you could be embarrassed later on.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you are willing to take on more duties at home, you can avoid an argument there. Entertain some influential guests this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Don't hesitate to contact a good friend who usually has fine ideas for recreation. Use your imagination to improve your financial status.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) If you are spending too lavishly, tactfully correct them and get good results. Pay particular attention to your health today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you have had an argument with a good friend, be cooperative and a reconciliation will be easy. Get involved in new activities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A superior will give you some highly valuable advice, so be sure you listen carefully. This can be of great help to you in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You will have an unusual amount of determination where your goals are concerned, so be sure to use this extra energy profitably.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Higher-ups are expecting a great deal from you, so buckle down and don't disappoint them. Handle that credit matter quickly today.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — A faltering start on Wall Street gave the signal to profit-takers in London, drawing share prices back from their highs in quiet afternoon business, dealers said. By 1.514 GMT Monday, the FTSE 100 share index was up 11.7 points to 1,798.4 with the 1,800 resistance level again proving difficult to breach for any significant length of time. The FTSE index touched a high of 1,806.3 around mid-morning, pushing through 1,800 for the first time since Jan. 7. Steady buying throughout the morning was fuelled by continuing optimism after last Friday's smaller, than expected U.S. merchandise trade deficit for November, dealers said. London shares continued to shadow Wall Street's performance and prices picked up later in the afternoon to reflect the tentative morning gain in the New York market. A number of dealers were wary of the gains scored here since Friday on the U.S. trade figures. "One (economic) number doesn't represent an underlying improvement in the U.S.'s general situation," one broker said. He went on to express concern that the U.S. remains unlikely to show resolve in tackling its budget and trade deficits through direct action in a U.S. election year.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7715/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2875/85	Canadian dollar
	1.6338/45	Deutschmarks
	1.8906/16	Dutch guilders
	1.3728/38	Swiss francs
	35.17/20	Belgian francs
	5.6760/90	French francs
	1235/1237	Italian lire
	130.33/43	Japanese yen
	6.0520/70	Swedish crowns
	6.4260/4310	Norwegian crowns
	6.4570/4620	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	476.90/477.40	U.S. dollars

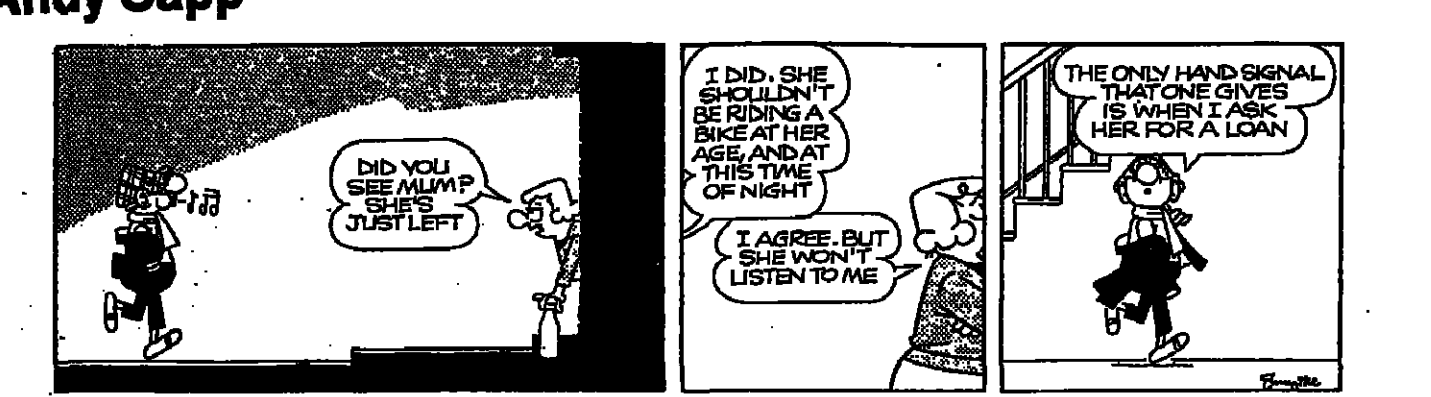
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

ADMISSION \$1.50

"When they offered free checking, I knew there'd be a catch."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOIPT

DURIL

CHATED

LIVERI

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO WIN AN ARGUMENT WITH YOUR WIFE?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHEAF, PENCE, FABRIC, ENGLIF

Answer: Those big-spending supplies must have been under the influence of this—AFFLUENCE

THE Daily Crossword by H. Kenneth Jackson

ACROSS

- Part of Earth
- Musical capital (with 10A)
- A Turner
- Bovine abode
- Batel palm
- See 5A
- Paradise
- Street show
- Small pastry
- Nile source
- First victim
- Dennis
- Pace
- Fountain drinks
- Ran
- Fink
- Violently collapsed in
- Kind of stable
- Kinky
- At the bottom
- Floral flags
- Pole railway
- Moist
- Boring voice
- Hall-of-Famer
- Laugh
- Common poet
- Memorable
- Lynx star
- Fourth
- Dissemination
- Confess
- "Oliver" villain
- First man
- Polymath
- First man
- Swale
- Half a tropic
- Site of old Olympics
- Ling Ling
- NC college

DOWN

- Encourages
- Late Afr. leader
- See 5A
- Academy city
- Silent wump
- Bedouin
- Sainted
- Woman
- Spotted cat
- "Norma"
- Handful kn
- Comic King
- Ancient balm
- Picnic pests
- A Dolly
- Part of FBI
- Contradictory
- Major inventor
- Room
- Depend
- Galaxy lake
- Phoenician port
- Footnote abbr.
- Home
- Ge. letters
- Film
- Alternative
- Masterman
- Elm's state
- Famed trail
- Flights
- Blind
- Gore
- Idealized
- concept
- Flightless
- Appraise
- Devilish
- Norse god
- Prepare
- Handle
- Dandy

Nicaragua criticises U.S. over prospects of more aid to contras

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The restoration of civil liberties promised by President Daniel Ortega may not last long if the U.S. Congress approves more aid to the contra rebels in a vote set for next month, the government said.

Bayardo Arce, one of the nine ruling commandantes in the Nicaraguan government, issued the warning in an interview published Sunday in the official Barricada newspaper.

Ortega, pressured by neighbours and threatened by the imminent congressional vote on continued rebel aid, on Saturday said he would lift a 6-year-old state of emergency and open direct cease-fire talks with the contras. He said the talks could begin this week.

The easing of restrictions on civil liberties was mandated by a regional peace plan signed in August. The deadline for compliance fell on Friday. Ortega announced the move on Saturday in Costa Rica at the end of a two-day meeting of five Central American presidents who signed the plan.

The other signatories to the pact brokered by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

El Salvador is engaged in a major civil war against Communist insurgents that already has claimed more than 65,000 lives. Guatemala faces a much smaller but persistent leftist insurgency that has lasted 30 years.

Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Managua, said during a Sunday homily that he would be willing to serve as a mediator in negotiations if the two sides wanted him to do so. He said, however, that he could not immediately take part in such talks because he had a trip scheduled outside the country.

The cardinal mediated two earlier, fruitless rounds of indirect talks in the Dominican Republic.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua continued to hold six prominent opposition leaders taken into custody since Friday for allegedly trying to form a united front with the contras.

Government sources said that Ortega would issue an "executive statement" on Monday to lift the

state of emergency, which banned the right to demonstrate, strike, move about the country freely and to receive a speedy trial.

It also enabled police to make arrests without a court order.

The U.S. Congress, which has approved about \$150 million in contra aid since 1985, is scheduled to vote in three weeks on President Ronald Reagan's pending request for an additional \$270 million.

In Washington, White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said Reagan would make the request despite Ortega's move.

Arce's statements, quoted by Barricada, appeared to be an assurance to hardliners that the principles of the Nicaraguan revolution would not be compromised.

"We don't want war, but we want our revolution, and if we have to have war for the revolution, then we will do so," he was quoted as saying.

Ortega also said Saturday that, once a cease-fire is reached with the contras and the rebels are "incorporated into civilian life," the government would grant amnesty to all political prisoners arrested after 1981.

If no truce is reached, the president said, Nicaragua's San-

dinista government would turn the prisoners over to the United States or any other country outside Central America willing to take them.

The government recently said there are about 1,200 political prisoners. Human rights groups estimate about five times that number.

In the past five months, Nicaragua has permitted the reopening of the only opposition newspaper, La Prensa, and the Roman Catholic radio station. Two exiled priests also were allowed to return.

A Nicaraguan contra rebel leader said Sunday a Sandinista army defector was likely to be in the rebel delegation for direct ceasefire talks with the government.

"It's almost certain that the resistance (rebels) ... will name Maj. Roger Miranda as one of its delegates. Since he recently deserted the Sandinistas, he knows them very well," contra leader Alfonso Robelo said by telephone.

Miranda, former private secretary of Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega, defected to the United States last year and stated that the Sandinistas planned to build a 500,000-strong army by 1995.

Argentine troops ready to crush military revolt

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Loyalist troops aboard tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks prepared Monday to advance against positions held by rebel forces commanded by cashiered Lt. Col. Aldo Rico.

The official news agency Telam said three columns, made up of more than 50 vehicles, gathered at the town of Chajari and departed at 4:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) toward the rebel-held 4th Infantry Regiment at Monte Caseros, some 31 miles (50 kilometres) north east.

Other units, including "amateur" and infantry, were reported to be awaiting orders at towns surrounding Monte Caseros.

A local radio station, Radio Chajari, quoted military officials as saying that heavy rain, which began Sunday night in the area, 325 miles (525 kilometres) north east of Buenos Aires, would delay efforts to end the rebellion, the second led by Rico in nine months.

Loyalist troops, estimated to total more than 2,000 men under command of army Chief of Staff Jose Cardi, converged on the area throughout Sunday for a showdown with munitions.

President Raul Alfonsín ordered the army, navy and air force on Sunday night to combine efforts to end the revolt. Social Welfare Minister Ricardo Barrios Arcechea said Alfonsín, acting as commander-in-chief, gave the order following a review of the crisis by military and defence officials.

The minister made his statements upon leaving the presidential residence in suburban Olivos. A communique issued by Defence Minister Horacio Jaurena said the president had ordered the "preparation and participation" of the three branches.

ches to support the restitution of discipline within the army and in defence of "institutions of republic."

Attention centred on Monte Caseros, where Rico told an impromptu, rain-drenched news conference that his troops, believed to total about 100, were "well supplied and will not surrender" to an estimated 2,000 loyalist forces.

Other incidents in support of the rebels were reported in western San Luis, south western Neuquen and southern Santa Cruz provinces and in the northern city of Tucuman and north eastern Paso de Los Libres.

The army confirmed that it had put down an attempted revolt in Las Lajas in Neuquen, 688 miles (1,100 kilometres) south west of Buenos Aires, and had arrested 13 officers of the 21st Mountain Infantry Regiment. No shots were fired.

Loyalist units also were reported to be moving to control incidents at the 161st Artillery Brigade in San Luis, 519 miles (830 kilometres) west of the capital, and at the 19th Infantry Regiment in Tucuman, 818 miles (1,309 kilometres) north west.

Many units throughout the country sent messages to army headquarters pledging support. 5th Army Corps Commander Gen. Humberto Ferrucci promised loyalist troops would open fire against Rico and his men if they did not end their revolt.

Army headquarters in Buenos Aires said in a communique that loyal units, which moved in on Sunday and surrounded the rebels holed up in the 4th Infantry Regiment, were acting with "greatest prudence and moderation" in Monte Caseros to avoid endangering the "civilian population, private property and economic resources in the area."

Philippine polls close as troops ring Manila

MANILA (R) — Voting in Philippine local elections ended Monday with troops ringing Manila after rumours that renegade soldiers planned an attack.

The reports that 3,000 renegade troops could try to attack the capital overshadowed nine hours of voting and ended a generally calm election day marred by sporadic outbreaks of violence and complaints of cheating.

"The army is ready to meet any threat," Armed Forces spokesman Gen. Honesto Isleta said on government television after polls closed at 4 p.m. (0800 GMT). "Of course these are unconfirmed reports but we cannot brush them off."

"We have adequate security," added Police Chief Gen. Manuel Roxas. "Metro-Manila is practically ringed by (government) forces."

Collecting and counting votes for mayors and provincial governors became the final hurdle in the country's two-year journey back to democracy following the February 1986 overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos and President Corason Aquino's rise to power.

Poll officials said they feared that achieving an accurate tally could be the biggest problem after a vicious election campaign in which 91 people were reported killed.

One of the last victims, a candidate running for provincial governor, was shot dead at a late Sunday night rally.

"I exhort our countrymen to exercise people power especially during the counting tonight. They should be doubly on guard against any irregularity or attempted fraud," Ramon Felipe, chairman of the Supervisory Commission on Elections (Comelec) appealed on radio.

Communist rebels, blamed for much of the campaign violence, snatched ballot boxes in the central island of Negros. The military said the Communist New People's Army wounded 22 people when guerrillas threw a grenade inside a passenger bus in the southern island of Mindanao and blew up an army jeep wounding three soldiers.

Guerrilla shot and seriously wounded a policeman guarding a polling station south of Manila and threw a petrol bomb at a police car in a provincial centre.

Military and election officials reported a heavy turnout among the nation's 27.6 million registered voters for the first local elections since polling held under martial law in 1980.

Clair Doreston, 39, who lives in the south western city of Jermie, said she voted because she hoped a president would end Haiti's political turmoil.

"We have no work," she said. "If we have a president, I could find something to do. I don't care who they give us. I just want a president."

Ballots were handed to election officials who deposited them in unsealed — and thus potentially reopenable — steel boxes.

Few voters were asked for proof of identification, as required by election law.

Also, people with ink-stained fingers, which indicated they had already cast ballots, were allowed to vote, as were people obviously younger than the minimum voting age of 18.

"It was not like it was subtle. Kids voted and laughed about it. They told us," said Michael Hooper, executive director of the New York-based National Coalition for Haitian Refugees.

Reporters at City Hall saw Manigat partisans handing out ballots along with five-gourde bills (each bill is worth \$1).

Roh may form cabinet with opposition

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President-elect Roh Tae-Woo said Monday he plans to fill some cabinet posts with opposition members.

Roh said he will ask the opposition camp to recommend suitable candidates for the posts, but did not say what posts would be offered. There was no immediate reaction from the opposition.

Meanwhile, the single-house National Assembly began a new session Monday to prepare election laws that must be completed before upcoming legislative elections. The present assembly, elected in February 1985, is to dissolve by late April.

Roh talked to reporters about his plans for a new cabinet and

other subjects after moving into a new office with a team of aides to prepare for the handover of power from outgoing President Chun Doo-Hwan. Roh is to be sworn in Feb. 25.

Roh, who heads the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), was elected with 36.6 per cent of the vote in the Dec. 16 presidential election. Opposition leader Kim Young-Sam polled 28 per cent and his opposition rival Kim Dae-Jung 27 per cent.

Roh has suggested conciliatory gestures toward the opposition, in part because he failed to win a clear-cut mandate from the voters.

He reiterated Monday that his

party wanted to hold the assembly elections in February, but said it would depend on negotiations with the opposition on rewriting the election laws.

Roh has said his new administration should start with a new assembly next month.

However, the opposition camp, including Kim Young-Sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), has insisted on April to gain time to prepare for the elections.

The ruling and opposition parties were to negotiate revisions to election laws during the current 13-day special assembly session.

The parties also have to agree on reapportioning electoral districts.

7 killed in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A two-year-old boy was shot dead in his mother's arms and six other people were killed on Sunday in one of the worst days of a black-against-black feud near the city of Pietermaritzburg, police said on Monday.

The killings in the shantytown war in Pietermaritzburg, capital of South Africa's Natal province, took the toll to at least 44 this month despite stepped-up efforts by police to curb the violence.

The two-year-old died and two women were seriously wounded when a group of blacks opened fire on them, police said in a daily bulletin on unrest. The report did not elaborate.

In other incidents in the area, three blacks were stabbed to death, a 33-year-old man died of burns when a petrol bomb was thrown at a house, and two others died of knife and bullet wounds.

The highest one-day death toll in the strife, which gathered momentum in the last four months of 1987, was last September when 12 people died after the house they were in was attacked and victims were shot as they tried to escape.

The murders, which have terrorised the once-peaceful Natal townships, stem from a power struggle between two black groups, the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Movement and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF).

Inkatha President Mangosuthu Buthelezi on Monday attacked the UDF, calling it a front for the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla group.

Curfew imposed on Karachi after 3 die in riot

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani authorities imposed a curfew on parts of Karachi Monday and called in troops after ethnic rioting killed three people, officials said.

"The situation is under control," Karachi Commissioner Shahid Aziz Siddiqui told reporters at Shah Faisal Colony police station, near the city's interna-

tional airport.

He said an indefinite curfew was imposed in the Shah Faisal and Green Town districts because of the tension.

Deputy Police Inspector-General A.A. Shigri told newsmen at least 28 shops were set on fire by arsonists who attacked property belonging to the rival community. "They have gone

mad," he said.

Shigri said troops had been called in as a precaution.

More than 350 people have been killed in ethnic rioting in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, over the past 14 months. Most of the clashes were between Mohajirs, migrants from other parts of the subcontinent, and Pashtuns from North West Pakistan.

Union Carbide appeals Indian interim relief order

DANBURY, Connecticut (AP) — Union Carbide Corp. said Monday it appealed an Indian court order that the company pay \$270 million in interim relief to the victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas leak that killed more than 2,000 people.

The mid-December order for interim relief "without evidence or trial" is contrary to law, the company said in a brief statement released from its Danbury headquarters.

The appeal, filed Monday in the city of Jabalpur, India, asks the high court in the state of Madhya Pradesh to set aside the order. Carbide spokesman Ed Van Den Ameel said.

"It must be clear to the government of India that the court's

order merely delays ultimate resolution of victim concerns by introducing a new and unenforceable concept of law," Van Den Ameel said.

In 1986, India filed a lawsuit against Carbide for \$3 billion in damages for the gas leak that it says killed 2,850 people and seriously injured more than 20,000 others. It was the world's worst industrial accident.

On Dec. 1, India filed criminal charges, accusing Carbide, its subsidiaries and officers of homicide and injury to people and animals when the methyl isocyanate leaked from a pesticide plant operated by a Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal.

The Indian judge ordered the interim relief in mid-December.

NATO chief wants longer range missiles

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO's commander in Europe, General John Galvin, says he favours the Western alliance quadrupling the striking range of its battlefield nuclear missiles under plans to modernise its nuclear stockpile.

"I would like to see a modernisation which would provide... a longer range surface-to-surface missile which would perhaps get out to 450 kilometres," Galvin said in an interview with West German Radio being broadcast on Monday.

"I hope that kind of modern missile will come along some time in the future," he said. The text of his comments was made available to Reuters in Brussels ahead of broadcast.

Galvin said such modernisation would not circumvent the U.S.-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty which will eliminate ground-launched missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometres.

NATO has 88 U.S.-made Lance short-range missiles which can travel about 100 kilometres.

In 1983, NATO committed itself to a nuclear modernisation programme in which it would develop and deploy a "follow-on" Lance missile with an extended range.

But the question of nuclear modernisation has now become politically sensitive with NATO anxious to avoid charges that it is violating the new spirit of arms control deriving from the INF treaty.

The issue is a particularly delicate one in West Germany which has a big anti-nuclear lobby and where the Bonn government, unlike its allies, wants early talks to reduce short-range missiles.

As NATO's front-line state, West Germany is the logical country for short-range missiles to be stationed.

"I believe that we should continue the modernisation," Galvin said.

"If we confuse the question of modernisation with the circumvention or somehow trying to substitute for the treaty, I think that would be bad."

Haitians snub fraud-marred elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Opposition leaders who had urged Haitians to boycott Sunday's elections claimed credit for what apparently was a very low turnout in balloting marked by fear, confusion and bribery.

Unofficial tallies were expected early this week, with official results to be announced by next Sunday.

Many people stayed home because of fear of violence or pessimism about the fairness of the poll. Opposition leaders estimated voter turnout at 5 per cent to 20 per cent.

The government refused to release figures either on voter turnout or election results after the polls closed at 6 p.m. (2300 GMT). The Information Ministry referred reporters to the junta-appointed Electoral Council.

The council in turn refused to give figures, and none were provided by a state-run television.

Unlike the Nov. 29 elections, which were cancelled after thugs killed at least 34 people, Sunday's election was peaceful with no clashes reported.

The four most popular candidates from the November election boycotted Sunday's vote, claiming the results would be fraudulent.

There was no indication that citizens were forced to vote, as opposition leaders and groups representing peasants in the countryside had feared. But reporters at City Hall did see bunches of people arriving by truckload to vote.

"The participation was ridiculously low in most areas. The general impression is, the boycott

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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MAXIMIZE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

AK 10

AB 86

Q 882

65

WEST

72

Q 54

Q 1032

Q 74

Q 103

Q 7654

Q 884

Q 732

SOUTH

Q 5653

Q 7

AK

Q 7

Q 10

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠.

Don't overlook any chance, no

matter how slight, in your plan of

campaign. South missed such a

possibility on this hand from a rub-

ber bridge game in Jerusalem, and

it cost him a vulnerable slam.

South's bidding was a little im-

precise, but the final contract

could hardly be faulted. Certainly,

the double fit made South's hand

very attractive.

West got his side off to its best

lead of a club, and declarer was in

trouble. Since the defenders had

COLUMNS 768

Expert finds unique shells in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — A leading international conchologist has found sea shells in the Gulf state of Oman that are new to science, natural history experts have said. Kathleen Smythe, 60, a London-based conchologist attached to the British Museum, is helping the government catalogue its shell collection, which numbers over 6,000 specimens and 500 species. She has written an authoritative reference text, *Shells of the Arabian Gulf*, published in 1982. "It is exciting work," she said in an interview. "I have found a new key-hole limpet, a rock-boring mollusc not seen before, and several shells not yet identified but certainly new. I expect to find more of importance." She describes several species of shell new to science in nearly 20 scientific papers to her credit. They include a shell discovered in Oman in 1984 and named *Parvartia Paulboschi*. Rare or new shells found in Oman are sent to American and British institutions for formal identification. Second largest country in the Arabian peninsula, Oman's coastline extends for over 1,700 kilometres, or more than 1,000 miles, mainly along the Arabian Sea. But scientists did not catalogue Oman's shells formally until 1984 when the collection was started.

Chemist develops anti-snoring drug

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav chemist, inspired by reading that every second adult around the world snores regularly, has developed an anti-snoring drug which he plans to market in April, the Zagreb daily *Vjesnik* has reported. The drug, patented under the name *Boosleep*, is based on 12 natural components and has no side effects, according to its creator Dr. Franjo Kajfetz. "It is based on the presumption that a healthy person snores mostly because the mucous membrane in the nose and the throat becomes dry as the result of breathing through the mouth," Kajfetz said. He said he tested the drug on 1,000 snorers for 70 days and 580 of them stopped snoring completely. Only a few showed no signs of improvement.

U.S. poet mugged in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — American poet Allen Ginsberg was mugged while walking in downtown Jerusalem after dark, police have said. "But unlike New York, I got my bag back," Ginsberg, 61, was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post newspaper. Ginsberg was walking from a Jerusalem Hotel to a friend's house Saturday night when a youth attacked him from behind and grabbed his bag, said police spokesman Rafi Levy. The bag was later recovered in nearby bushes, its contents untouched, Levy said. He said Ginsberg filed a complaint against the assailant. The Jerusalem Post quoted the poet as saying: "There are no problems, no problems." Ginsberg was not in his hotel for comment Sunday. Ginsberg gained fame as a poet of the Beat Movement of the 1950s which also included writer Jack Kerouac. Among Ginsberg's best-known poems are *Howl* and *Kaddish*. He came to Israel to conduct a seminar at a Tel Aviv photography school, the Jerusalem Post said. The newspaper said he also works as a teaching assistant to Robert Frank, a U.S. photographer. Ginsberg describes himself as a Buddhist Jew.

Man jailed for biting off finger

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A court has sentenced a man to 20 days in jail and fined him for biting off the finger of a friend he accused of making too much noise, a newspaper reported Sunday. The Gulf News said the Dubai criminal court in Dubai sentenced Sita Ram Raju, a 25-year-old man from India, to 20 days in jail and fined him 500 dirhams (\$135) for attacking a man who shared his apartment, identified as Hiralal K. The newspaper said Raju told the court he had asked Hiralal to stop making noise so that he could enjoy a drink with a friend. When the noise continued, he attacked Hiralal and bit off the finger. Indians form a large part of the expatriate work force in the United Arab Emirates. The newspaper did not say on what day the man was sentenced, or the date of his conviction. It did not say whether attempts were made to surgically reattach the finger, but described the victim as "disabled" and the court told him he could file a separate suit for damages.

200,000 attend last Tina Turner concert

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — About 200,000 chanting fans packed the world's largest soccer stadium on Saturday to see rock queen Tina Turner samba to her latest hits as well as favourite oldies. Turner sang beneath the stars from a glittery green and blue carnival parade float mounted on the massive stage in the Maracana Soccer Stadium. About 100 members of the Beija Flor, or "humming bird" samba school, dressed in feathers and sequins, accompanied Turner. The crowds, which according to the O Globo newspaper far surpassed her previous attendance record of 98,000 in West Germany, carried "Tina, Tina," as the rock queen danced the samba with the Brazilian carnival performers. During the one hour and forty minute show, Turner, 48, sang both old and new hits, including *Help*, which she dedicated to Rio de Janeiro. Turner has been in Brazil since late December for concerts in Sao Paulo and Saturday's Rio show, which she has said will be the last of her career.

Ballet stars join in AIDS benefit dance

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Twenty-five world ballet stars, including Soviet dancers from both East and West, met Sunday for the first time in an anti-AIDS benefit dance. Bolshoi dancers Ludmila Semenyaka and Yuri Posochov, and Kirov stars Irina Kolpakova and Sergei Berejnov were on the programme, as well as Natalia Makarova, an ex-Kirov star who now lives in the West, and Eva Evdokimova, another Soviet expatriate. Marcia Haydee and James Cragun came from Stuttgart; Stephanie Saland and Otto Neubert from the New York City Ballet; Gamal Gouda and Gigi Hyatt from Hamburg; Alicia Alonso and Orlando Salgado from Cuba; Antonio Castilla and Arantxa Arguelles from Madrid; Eileen Brady from Zurich; Paul Chalmers from London; Denys Gadio and Jan Broeckx from Marseille; and Wim Broeckx from the Dutch National Ballet. Local ballet stars included Maria Teresa Del Real, Pablo Savoye and Koen Onzia from the Ballet of Flanders. The guests, who danced for no fee, interpreted some of